

Hang Your Hat In History
OZONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& VISITOR CENTER PARK
P.O. Box 1135, 505 15th Street, Ozona, TX 76943
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CHAMBER DIALOGUE

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April Business of the Month

The Chamber of Commerce would like to recognize KERRIE'S CREATIONS as our April Business of the Month:

Kerrie's Creations is a NEW home based, family owned and operated business, started by Kerrie Baker, that provides all natural bath, beauty, and aromatherapy products. Kerrie has created in her lab, located in her home, 21 original Kerrie's Creations Scents.



The interest in bath products began when Kerrie's four children (ranging in age from 7 to 15) and family members began to have reactions to many different bath products. Kerri is a paramedic who has worked in the EMS field for over ten years. She also worked for Morad Associates, a lab at the Whitney hospital, for two years where she developed her skill to create her all natural products and original scents. "My husband John and I moved to Ozona from Whitney last June and we love it here."

"If you are someone who is prone to allergies, or have had a reaction to another product whose scent you like, we can match that scent for you. We can custom make your own special lotion, soap, salt or shampoo to the scent of your choice," said Kerrie. Kerrie has also created a line of her own original scents, the most popular being the Texas Fruit Punch. All the ingredients are products made in the USA.

Many of the products and scents Kerrie has created are named after family members. She has just released 3 new scents (Edward's Love, Jacob's Quest and Bella's Kiss), based on the characters in the Twilight movie series. "I have created a scent that blends with each of the characters and their personalities in the movies."

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CHAMBER WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Family Health Center of Ozona
Susan Bilano, Clinic Director
104 N. Avenue H
Ozona, TX 76943
325/392-3788
www.shannonhealth.com
Serving Ozona M-F, 8am-5pm
Family Practice

Caprock Diesel, Inc.
Fred Chila, General Manager
819 11th Street
P.O. Box 906
Ozona, TX 76943
325/392-2000
E-Mail: fred@caprockdiesel.com
www.caprockdiesel.com
24 Hour service & parts on all 6
& 8 class truck engines & drive
trains. Parts & service center for
Freightliner custom chassis.
Dealer for Hyundai construction
equipment for lease or purchase.
U-Haul trucks/trailers. Kerrville
bus station on site

Small Fashions & Gifts
Heather Hill Claburn, Owner
1004 Avenue E
P.O. Box 598
Ozona, TX 76943
325/392-3226
hclaburn@gmail.com
Children's Boutique-infant to 6x
and exquisite home gifts

Giles & Becky Davidson Madray
P.O. Box 1214
Ozona, TX 76943
Individual Supporters

NewQuest IT Solutions, LLC
Keynon Lannom, Owner
1207 S. Abe. Ste 200
San Angelo, TX 76903
325/716-4060
E-Mail: support@newquest-it-com
We provide quality server, network and pc
solutions to commercial customers. We
Offer a broad range of services including
24/7 remote support, onsite support, remote
support, onsite support, remote back-up
solutions, server hosting and firewall
monitoring for financial institutions.
Engineers certified with extensive back
ground checks.

Howard's Well Ranching Company
Joel Barrett
P.O. Box 1028
Ozona, TX 76943
325/226-4500 or 325/392-8040
E-mail: joelbarrett@hotmail.com
Hunting/ranching.

Robert Massie Funeral Home
Gregg Underwood, Manager
402 Rio Concho Drive
San Angelo, TX 76903
325/655-8121 or 325/340-3889
E-mail: massie@robertmassie.com
Funeral home providing cremation,
traditional services, memorial services
visitations, funerals and gravesides.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

The Ozona Chamber of Commerce would like to wish the following members a ***Happy Anniversary***, and THANK YOU for your 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 April.

Knox Floor Covering Co. –1965
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Hunnicutt-1997
Amigo Chemical Control, Inc.-2006
J.D. Crowder Contract Pumping &
Consulting-2006
Ozona Truck Towing &
Emergency Repair (OTTER)-2007

Crockett County Abstract Company-1997
Thomas Cameron, Attorney at Law-1997
Sonic Drive-In-2006
Mr. Charles McCleary-2008
Wissestad Ranch-2009

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Brand new products include chap stick and foaming body scrub in any scent you select. For children she has created a bubble bath, and they too can select the scent of their choice. She has 3 new men's scents called London, Intuition and Myan Gold. For spring she has released peach, plumeria, bright blossoms, island coconut and honeysuckle. "We want to appeal to children, teens, adult men and women. With all scents to choose from, our Texas Fruit Punch is still the most popular." Kerrie is also working on an Ozona scent.

Kerrie's Creations has a wide array of lotions, soaps, molded soaps, salts, massage oils, shampoos and conditioners for both men and women. Products are currently available at two local businesses, Pepe's Café or Fine Art Collectables and range in pricing from \$2.00 to \$12.50.

Kerrie is planning to launch a web site soon that will include a list of products, ingredients, pricing and an on-line shopping cart will be available at www.kerriecreations.com. For more information you can reach Kerrie Baker, Owner/Crafter at 392-2744 or 254-733-1003.

Phone Scam Alert

Local businesses should be aware of a new phone scam. If you receive a call and someone on the other end says, "I just need to verify some information", ***HANG UP!*** Once you give this information you will then begin to see a \$40 a month charge on your phone bill. Local businesses have already experienced and reported the problem. You may see on your phone bill a company listed as ILD or First Fairfield. You can call and have these charges cancelled, but apparently it takes repeated requests.

To date the scam seems to be limited to businesses, particularly the retail and service industry. Busy employees answer the phone and are caught off guard. Please pass this information on to co-workers, family and friends. If you have not placed the call, do not volunteer or "verify" anything over the phone. Ask the caller to contact you by mail.

Small Business Tips for the Small Business Development Center

For the last several years lenders and other financial institutions have been using credit scores to determine the level of risk for the bank when a small business owner applies for a commercial loan. These scores have been used to determine the ability of entrepreneurs to repay loans. So, it could be in your best interest to understand credit scores if you need financial assistance.

Credit scores are information about consumers' credit experiences such as outstanding debts, collection actions, types of accounts and bill paying history. This information is collected from one of three credit bureaus: Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. The credit score range is between 300 and 850 and the higher the number, the better the score.

Understanding credit score ratings is important as it is used to determine a consumer's ability to obtain a loan and the rate of interest. The higher the credit score gives one a better chance to get a lower rate. A good credit score is vital to small businesses as it makes financial dealings much easier.

For most consumers a question comes to mind while thinking of credit scores. What is a good score? When lenders review your credit score they usually use the score prepared by Fair Isaac Corporation or FICO. It is the most commonly used system to calculate credit scores. Typically lenders consider scores of more than 700, a sign of sound financial background. A score below 600 means that you are a high risk and may be turned down.

Many entrepreneurs come to the SBDC and meet with one of our knowledgeable advisors. At some point in the meeting we learn he/she has a poor credit score and will need financial assistance. This is a very real barrier to getting their business up and running.

You can and should improve your credit score but it is a process and will take patience. As Americans we are heavily into the use of credit cards. One of the biggest contributing factors to a bad credit score is missed credit card payments. It is extremely important to pay any credit card bill as soon as you receive it.

Another good idea is to plan a budget and stick to it. Instead of paying off debts gradually there are home equity loans available to pay all credit card debt in full. Of course refraining from any unnecessary spending is the best solution.

“Business Tips” was written by Mr. Paul Howard, Business Development Specialist and Certified Business Advisor III of Angelo State University’s Small Business Development Center.

Paul travels to Ozona monthly to visit with small businesses about the many services available to them. If you would like to schedule a time to visit with Paul during his trip to Ozona, call 942-2098.

Member Benefit

Monthly Business Flyers:

Having a sale? Offering after holiday discounts? Have old inventory you would like to move? Do you have a new product to introduce? Hiring? New ownership or location?

As an added Chamber member benefit, our monthly membership mail-out is a great opportunity to gain additional exposure to 169 businesses and individuals.

Simply drop off or e-mail your flyer to the Chamber office by the first of each month. We will mail your flyer along with the newsletter to all Chamber members. Extras will be distributed to visitors to the Chamber office.

Want to take advantage of the service but don't have time to work up the flyer. Call us, we will help!

Services Sheet:

In an effort to encourage a “**traveler friendly**” environment in our town, and to educate employees about the local services rather than sending them “down the road”, the Chamber has developed the enclosed Service Sheet as a quick reference to help Ozona employees assist customers, residents and travelers.

These are the most frequently asked questions when people stop in at the Visitor Center and we thought we would share the answers.

You will receive updates as they occur.

What do Chamber members have to say

Stan Meador of the X-Bar Ranch said about the Chamber Hot Deal E-newsletter, “after receiving a couple, my first thought was, wow, they are really taking shopping local to a new level.”

Lisa Pool of Ozona Hair Company: “I've lived in several communities and have always worked with the local Chamber. I am impressed with our Chamber and how active and involved you are with the community and businesses. I've been in communities where that hasn't been the case. You all offer a number of services to local businesses, and I know I should be more involved, but I'm responsible if I don't take advantage of them.”

Victor De La Garza of Texas Energy: “Texas Energy picked up a big contract from a client that found us off the Chamber web site. That one piece of business more than paid for our annual dues. I'm sorry I can't always attend your events, but the Chamber does a good job.”

Debbie Forehand Wilson, Realtor Wilson: Debbie said after one month of membership, “I've already had three calls since posting my Hot Deal on your web site.”