

K-9 Kondo is now a family affair

Marcia Hora

You never know where a summer job may lead. For Ethan Weems, who will be a junior this fall at Stapleton High School, it's turned into a big-time business opportunity. Just how big is yet to be determined, but for the Weems family, who recently purchased K-9 Kondo, it may just be a once-in-a-lifetime chance with endless possibilities.

Joe Shown of Stapleton didn't know where it would lead either when he first drew up an idea on a bar napkin in 1988 while drinking beer with a friend at a bar in Palmyra.

Shown will tell you the two were discussing a need for a better door for doghouses and what he thought would improve the fabric flaps their dogs were chewing to shreds.

"I decided the best material for a dog house door should be a thin steel plate to resist dog teeth. A galvanized waterproof coating would be added for rust-resistance. The door should quietly swing in and out for easy entry and exit. It also needed to be a one-size-fits-all design so it could be put on the end of a 55-gallon plastic barrel as an inexpensive, easy-to-find, weather resistant dog home."

Fast forward to 2022 to find out the answer to just how far that doodling on a napkin went.

K-9 Kondo expanded from dog doors, to a kit

that not only included the door, but a plastic platform base to hold the 55-gallon barrel in a stable ground-mounted position and also included a lounging "platform" perch on the top of the barrel.

What happened was the K-9 Kondo Kit was a best seller and put the company on the map with sales doubling every month. The product was being shipped to all 50 states, all of Canada, and several foreign countries. Shown quit supplying plastic 55-gallon barrels and suggested customers buy the barrels locally to save on shipping costs.

Shown also marketed a "Dog Den" after designing a doghouse as tough as the door. Fabricated from galvanized steel plate and plastic sheets it came in three configurations and two sizes and was guaranteed chew-proof and rust-resistant.

Shown's production shop was just steps away from his house located south of Stapleton, and he and his wife, Judy, manned the ordering calls that came in at all time of the day and night.

"I preferred it that way because I liked talking to my customers and giving them information about my products."

As the company grew, so did the number of people who worked at the manufacturing shop.

That's where the Weems family came into play. Nathan and Bridget Weems moved back to Stapleton to raise their four children. Both are

Stapleton High School graduates and have strong ties to Logan County.

"The kids have a lawn care business and we wanted Ethan to work for someone other than us so he could gain some experience and understand what it's like to work for someone other than your parents," Bridget said.

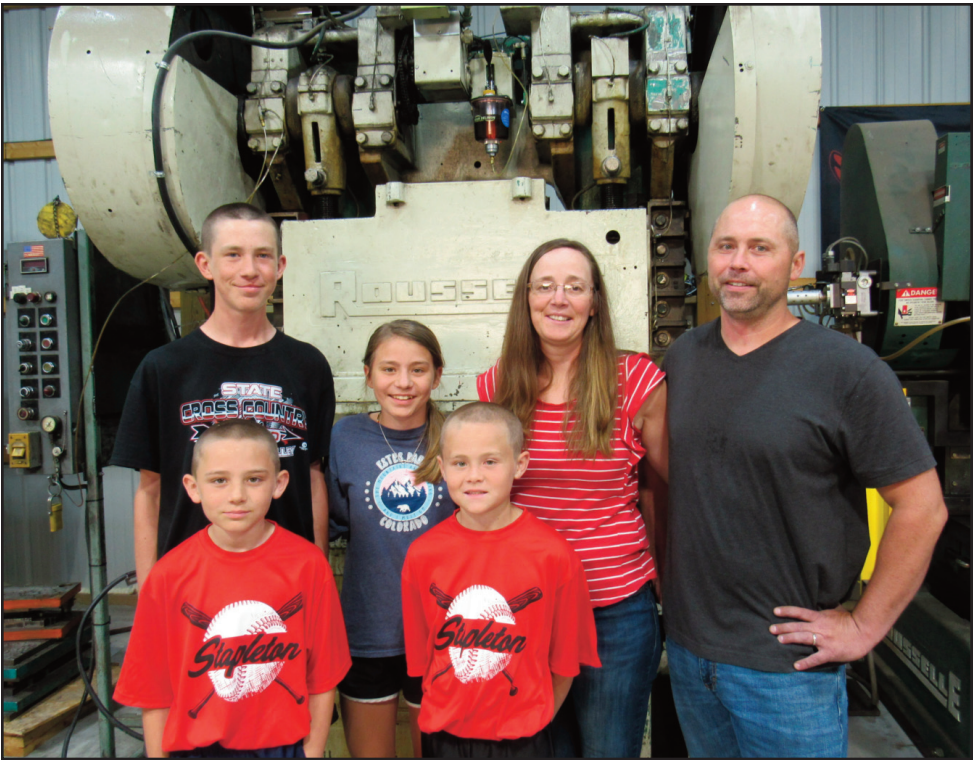
Ethan has worked for K-9 Kondo for a couple of years and learned how the dog doors and other products were made. He would do yard work in the morning and also help out where needed. When it was time for Joe to think about retiring and selling the company, the Weems family was the perfect fit. The deal was finalized May 1.

"It's certainly an adventure," Nate Weems said. "We are pleased to bring the business to Stapleton and hopefully the kids can take it over some day. Joe has an amazing clientele and has built this into a business that has endless possibilities."

The Weems family is dreaming big and has set goals. They want to get back to shipping 1,000 dog doors a year and start manufacturing the Dog Den 2 again.

Expansion of K-9 Kondo is on the horizon as deals are being made with Bomgaars and Tractor Supply. Products will also be available on Amazon.

"Bridget and I are manning the phones and taking orders," Nate added. "It's unreal how many orders we have already had



MARCIA HORA - THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

K-9 Kondo has a new home and it is now located in Stapleton. Equipment arrived last Wednesday and has been set up in the steel building located on the Nate and Bridget Weems property near their home on J Street. Along with acquiring K-9 Kondo the Weems family has also started Arrow Plus Industries, LLC, that will make custom signs, decorative and deck railings, custom parts and metal fabrication. Pictured with the new equipment onsite are back row, l-r: Ethan, Avery, Bridget, and Nate Weems, and the twins Micah and Sean.

and it's a good thing Joe helped us get some inventory built up. We've got a head start with 400 dog doors and we have quite a waiting list for the Dog Den 2. I just finished up the wiring in the building so we can get up and running in our new location. The equipment arrived last Wednesday."

Avery, who will be a 7th grader, and the twins, Sean and Micah, who will be fourth graders, have

also gotten into the act. They have been helping out in the shop doing odd jobs and sacking parts.

There are 18 steps that go into making a product and Bridget said she can run all of the machines.

Plans are already in the works to enlarge the building as the company continues to grow.

"We definitely should have made the building bigger," Nate said. "I already know we're going to

have to add on."

A plasma table has been purchased for the Arrow Plus Industries, LLC side of the business. The Weems family has already made custom signs, and is ready to take on decorative and deck railings, custom parts and metal fabrication.

It was a bittersweet day

See K9 Kondo
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Valuations continue to increase in county

Marcia Hora

Logan County is no different than any other county in the state. Valuations continue to increase on real estate property.

Logan County Assessor Debbie Myers said residential property was active in 2021. Market studies are done on all residential properties, including mobile homes and acreages for a period of three years starting October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2021. A total of 18 sales were recorded in the file in 2021. The current level of residential property value, approved by the Department of Revenue and Tax Equalization and Review Commission is 99%. Most residential property owners saw an increase in their

valuations as properties were sold for more than they were currently valued at.

There were 23 qualified sales of unimproved agricultural land in the three-year study period of October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2021. There were 12 grassland sales, one dryland and 10 irrigated.

Grassland values raised from \$575 per acre to \$610 per acre for all classes.

Dryland acres remained the same as last year.

Irrigated values raised all classes due to sales in those areas. 1A1 and 1A went from \$3,675 to \$3,820; 2A1 and 2A went from \$3,500 to \$3,600; 3A1 and 3A went from \$2,955 to \$3,055; and 4A and 4A1 went from \$2,600 to \$2,700.

The current level of agricultural property value, approved by the Department of Revenue and Tax Equalization and Review Commission is 69%.

There was no change in value in Logan County commercial properties unless new improvements or depreciation changed.

There was only one commercial sale in the three year sales period from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2021.

The current level of commercial property value, approved by the Department of Revenue and Tax Equalization and Review Commission is 100%.

The amount of taxes required is determined by the budgeted needs requested by each govern-

ment subdivision. Taxing subdivisions in the county include Logan County, Stapleton Public Schools, Arnold Public Schools, Sandhills Public Schools, Stapleton, Dunning and Arnold Fire Districts, Educational Service Units #16 and #10, Mid-Plains Community College and Upper Loup NRD.

The Logan County Commissioners will meet as a Board of Equalization at 9:00 a.m. on June 15, July 6 and July 20.

Assessor Myers reminds property tax owners a list of all sales are available in her office.

For more information you may contact her at 308-636-2311 and she will answer any questions you may have on your valuation changes.

Dog shot clinic coming to town

The Village of Stapleton reminds patrons that dog licenses were due June 1 and will become delinquent after July 1. A dog license is required for all dogs within the Village of Stapleton limits and a copy of your dog's rabies vaccination records must be submitted at the time of registration.

Village Ordinance #213-18 states it is the duty of every person owning, keeping or harboring a dog(s) to license it with the Village Clerk and to retain the license receipt and metal tag furnished by the Village Clerk.

Any person found guilty of violating any portion of the ordinance will be fined in the amount of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$500.000 plus costs per offense.

The Village violations bureau is now in place and tickets will be issued

for violations.

Current fees as of June 1 are \$10.00 each for male dogs; \$15.00 each for female dogs; and \$10.00 each for spayed female dogs.

Delinquent fees after July 1 are \$20.00 each for male dogs; \$30.00 each for female dogs; and \$20.00 each for spayed female dogs.

Bierman Vet Services will be coming to Stapleton, Friday, June 10 and will be set up in the Stapleton Park Shelter to assist you from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. to provide shots for your pets.

For more information about the shot clinic you may call the vet clinic at 308-848-3334 or Village of Stapleton Clerk, Stacey Anderson at 308-636-2960.

Clerk Anderson will be at the clinic and available to license your dog.

Event
Calendar

June 9 - Cornerstone
Christian Women's Salad
Luncheon, noon,
Evangelical Presbyterian
Church, Stapleton
June 10 - Poker Night, 7:00
p.m., Vet's Club
June 11 - SHS Class of 1972
50-year Class Reunion,
Monica Kramer's home
June 13 - Poker Night, 7:00
p.m., Vet's Club; American
Legion & VFW meeting,
7:00 p.m., Vet's Club
June 14 - Flag Day
June 17 - Poker Night, 7:00
p.m., Vet's Club

Class of 1972
Reunion

Stapleton High School's
Class of 1972 will hold a 50-
year class reunion, Saturday,
June 11, at the home of Mon-
ica Kramer, 36 Highway 83,
south of Stapleton.
A cocktail hour (BYOB) will
begin at 5:00 p.m. and a
potluck supper follows at
6:30 p.m. Meat will be pro-
vided, please bring a side
dish.
Class members are inviting
everyone in the community,
including former teachers
and friends, to attend and
visit with the honored class.

Weather

DATE	HI	LOW	MT.
28	90	49	T
29	89	54	0
30	82	54	.11
31	65	45	.14
June 1	69	47	0
2	68	42	T
3	76	44	.01
4	81	49	.05

Thunder was recorded on
May 28, 29 & June 3. Fog was
observed on June 4. Wind
chill was recorded as 40 de-
grees on May 31. Winds were
recorded at 53 MPH on May
30. Pea size hail was recorded
on June 3 with golf ball size
hail 6 miles SSE. Total May
moisture was 4.10" above the
normal of 3.29". To date:
7.15"

McPherson
Co. News



• Over The Hills
• Graphic Files
• Senior Meals Menu
• Summer Cattle Meeting

Notices



• Notice Of Organization
Coco Electric, LLC
• School District R-1
Special Meeting
• Logan County
Commissioners & BOE
Public Notice
• Notice of Incorporation
Plus W, Inc.
• Logan Co. Taking Bids

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