

Cal Farley's Alumni Newsletter

"The way to get rid of a past is to have a future." –Cal Farley

*Welcome to the Boys Ranch Family
by Dan Adams*



Hello, everyone!

I'm happy to be able to let you know that we're slowly finding our new normal at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch.

The change started in the spring, when so many of our staff members were able to get vaccinated against COVID. After graduation, we were able to relax our masking protocols, just in time for spring pollen to attack everyone's nasal cavities! More seriously, the ranch has received a lot of rain recently, and the cottonwoods have been producing "cotton" at a prodigious rate. Mike Pacino tells me this year was the third wettest May in Boys Ranch history.

During the 2020-21 school year, 42 residents completed the requirements for high school graduation. That's an amazing accomplishment given the COVID restrictions. I'm so proud of these students for sticking out a challenging year and getting their degrees. Several of them chose midterm graduation, but they have all proven that they are able to see a goal and achieve it.

Of those 42, seven have chosen to Bridge the Gap with us, where they commit to continue living as residents on campus in the summer before leaving for the next chapter of their lives. Bridge the Gap is a unique program among residential childcare facilities in that it allows us to extend just a few extra months of care to those students who need it.

Speaking of care, I want to thank the Alumni Association for being so supportive of these new alumni, who don't really know what the word means yet. Of the recent graduates, 14 are going to live in the Cal Farley's Alumni Support Center while they get their feet under them. Adulthood is hard, and financial support from the Alumni Association for the Alumni Support Center allows us to give our graduates some training wheels. I love how you welcome these residents into the larger Boys Ranch family.

We're going to feature the Cal Farley's Alumni Support Center in an upcoming issue of *The Roundup*, so you'll be able to read more about this wonderful program.

In June, many residents who will be staying with us for the next year spent time with their families during extended home visits, and as I write this, they're starting to return to the ranch. As the children come back, they are quarantining for a few days in their campus homes before rejoining the rest of us. We've admitted some new children, who are also quarantining before entering full campus life. We've been able to offer hospitality this summer to a few local youth groups with trail rides through the property. The groups often dine with us before returning to Amarillo. Between these visitors and the returning residents, more children's voices fill the dining hall every day – a welcome sound after the past year.

In another point of progress, we have launched a new website. It still has the same address, of course – www.calfarley.org – but the new look feels fresher and more user-friendly. This project has been almost six months in the making, and we look forward to hearing what you think of our hard work.

Many of you have been asking, and we're glad to be able to let you know that alumni are welcome again to fish at Boys Ranch. The fish in the ponds haven't seen a lure all winter, and we expect there are some monster trophies lurking in the depths. As always, check in at headquarters when you come to fish, and if you catch a big one, take a picture and share it with us!

Our alumni are always our alumni, and we're always proud of you, too. That's no fish tale!

<http://calfarley.org>

Alumni Support Services

Kim Reeves
806-322-2531

kimreeves@calfarley.org

Newsletter

Cheree Gilliam
806-322-2645

chereegilliam@calfarley.org

Published Quarterly

All submissions and comments should be received NO LATER than October 15 to make it into the 2021 Fall edition of the Alumni Newsletter

2021 Calendar

Rodeo Reunion – September 3-5
See insert for more details

(See Alumni website for Gathering details)

Table of Contents

A Message from Dan Adams	1
Calendar & Contact Info	1
Condolences & Prayers	2
Congratulations	2
Bob's Beat	2
President's Corner	3
New Executive Director	3
Rick Bousquet	4

Condolences



Jerry Boatwright

Boys Ranch 66-68
May 23, 2021
Albuquerque, NM



Danuel Smith

Boys Ranch 52-54
May 9, 2021
Woodstock, VA

BR
STAFF

Dustin Williams

July 12, 2021
Amarillo, TX

Prayers

Prayers offered up for **Charles Brady** (53-64) for health and healing.

Sending out Prayers for **Jessica (McCracken) Etheridge** (01-06) and her daughter for health and healing. Please keep them and their family in your prayers today and in the days to come.

Congratulations to Bryce W. (21) and Aliyah R. (21)! They each received the scholarship award for the Oldham County Student of the Year!

Still Looking for BR Yearbooks!

1958, 1960, 1961 & 1962

They will be returned unharmed and at no cost to you. I only wish to make a copy of them for my files. If you have one (or all) of these books, please contact Cheree at cgilliam@calfarley.org or attempt to reach me at 806/322-2645.

Alumni Support Services

Cal Farley's remains committed to our former residents into adulthood. It's a familial bond much like that of a traditional family. We invest in our alumni's future by helping them pursue educational success and a smooth transition into independent life. Maintaining a lifelong relationship with former Cal Farley's residents allows them the comfort to know their needs, from a caring ear to casework and a wide range of other services are always available, should they ever have the need. For more information, please contact Kim Reeves at 806/570-6465.

Friday, July 9, 2021 Dennis & Nancy McNeill began their first day of retirement after working at Boys Ranch for 49 years and 3 days! Enjoy yourselves!

Bob's Bear



Bobby Sarpalius (67)

Bob's Last Beat

That sounds a bit ominous. Not talking about the last beat of the beater...at least I hope so. However, that thought is one reason that this is my last Bob's Beat. I've been doing the Director thing for the CFBRAA for 13 years now. I would like to turn it over and help the next person while I still can. Hence I'm retiring from the position and I'm excited about what lies ahead...for the Association, not for me. Well, I'm excited about what lies ahead for me too, but the Association is going to see much better days ahead. We have, within our alumni, one man who had worked directing non-profit organizations for many years, and he is excited to accept the responsibility to run our Association. Rick Bousquet was at BR from 1984 – 88. He lives in the DFW area and will take over on July 15th. You can read more about him in this newsletter.

I am the most blessed man I know. One of my greatest blessings has been the privilege to work with and serve some outstanding men and women who serve the alumni of Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and Girlstown. The work we have done has been amazing and truly blessed by God. There have been many challenges, but good and committed people have worked through them to build a strong Association that has provided scholarships to over 60 students, valued at nearly \$200K. You have provided nearly \$150K of crisis assistance to just under 200 families. You've provided washers and dryers for the Alumni Support center, prizes for Christmas contests and stock shows, gift cards for seniors and a veteran's memorial to honor our alumni who are veterans. You have had gatherings all over the country, recognized distinguished staff and alumni, and started a foundation to underwrite the costs of the Association for years to come. YOU have done some very good work, and I've been blessed to be a part of it.

The best days and work of the CFBRAA are ahead, and good people will continue to lead and serve. Your participation in the good work will be blessed as you are a blessing to others. What we do for others will last FAR LONGER than what we do for ourselves. Let's all continue to "Carry On His Work." Thank you for letting me serve.

Bobby Sarpalius



Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Alumni Association

www.calfarleysalumni.com

Cal Farley's Boys Ranch
Alumni Association
PO Box 9435
Amarillo, TX 79105

facebook

Rick Bousquet, Executive Director
cfbraa@gmail.com
806-655-3884

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Jimmie Boatwright (70)



Dear Alumni,

First of all I would like to Thank Bob Sarpalius for his many years of service to the Alumni Association. He will be retiring effective July 15, 2021. Our organization is in a much better place due to his service. We all wish Bob and Cindy a Long and Happy retirement!

I do hope everyone is having a great summer and enjoying some "getting out of the house time". I know we have enjoyed less restrictions of movement here around Amarillo.

The Alumni will be helping host a Class Reunion for the Class of 2011 on July 17 at the Christian Education Building at the Ranch at 2 pm. Please contact Sherry 806-655-3884 or Carla Brooks on her Facebook page if you would like to attend.

On Sunday July 18, at the Amarillo Alumni Support Center, we will be hosting a pizza lunch for the residents of the ASC.

We have gotten most of the plans for the 2021 Reunion over Labor Day Weekend in place. Please look over the schedule of events here in the newsletter and plan to attend as many as you are able. We are looking forward to having a large crowd since we were not able to have a Reunion last year. Let's all make this year a Double Great One!

At the Reunion, we will be recognizing the 10 year increments of classes: 2011, 2001, 1991, 1981, 1971, 1961, so if one of these is your graduating class come on and celebrate at the Alumni Banquet on Saturday.

Any updates of the events will be posted on the web page and on the Alumni Facebook page. Anytime you have questions or need to make reservations for the events please feel free to call Sherry at 806-655-3884. We would ask you to please make reservations, to let us know who all will be attending, so we have a good head count for the food caterer, as they would greatly appreciate it.

Hope to see you soon!

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE CFBRAA

For months now the BOD of the CFBRAA has been searching for a new Executive Director, following the announcement of Bob's retirement. The BOD elected a Transition Committee to consider all the factors and candidates. Several significant decisions have been made, including electing Sherry Boatwright as the Executive Secretary and employing the services of an outside firm to do the bookkeeping. This last month the BOD voted to accept the recommendation of the committee to a contract with Rick Bousquet, effective July 15TH.

Rick was a Rancher from 1984-88, living in Jim Hill. He worked as a Sgt. with the Texas Prison System and as a Deputy Sheriff for several years before beginning a career in service to non-profit organizations. For the last 20+ years he has served as Executive Director for several non-profit and for profit organizations, including starting a Consulting /Coaching firm specifically to assist Executive Directors and Boards of Directors who manage non-profit organizations. It would be difficult to imagine someone more qualified to lead the CFBRAA at this time. He has a heart for the work we do and for the home from which we all come along with invaluable knowledge and experience in the work we seek to do.

Rick's experience in leading organizations such as ours, his passion for what we do, and his experience of being one of us will be a tremendous asset to the CFBRAA. He will lead us to the next level of service and value to both Cal Farley's and all former residents of Boys Ranch and Girlstown.

There will naturally be several changes in the way the CFBRAA does things with a new Executive Director. This includes the appointment of Sherry as the new Executive Secretary. Most communications will be channeled through the secretary. All mail to the Amarillo PO Box will be delivered to Sherry for handling. She will serve as the first source of information and direction for questions about the CFBRAA.

Communications may be directed to Sherry at the CFBRAA address: CFBRAA

CFBRAA Phone number is NOW 806-655-3884

Sherry Boatwright rsher9@aol.com

PO Box 9435

Amarillo, TX 79105



Rick Bousquet (84-88)
Executive Director CFBRAA

First, I want to say what an honor it is to serve this Association as YOUR Executive Director.

Like many of you, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch was and is home. It has been utterly amazing how I can look back on my life and have a true appreciation of the many things the Ranch taught me. I know in my heart Cal Farley's set my direction in life and laid the foundation with leadership, work ethic, and my relationship with God. I could go on and on, but instead I just want to thank our outgoing Executive Director, Bobby Sarpalius, the hiring committee, and the board of directors for their work and commitment to our Association. They have all done a tremendous job and we are all excited about the future.

As you may have read, when I left the Ranch, I had an eight-year career with the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice and two different Sheriff Departments. After that I have been in nonprofit and association management at the senior level for the last 20+ years. I started with CFBRAA just last week and have discussed in detail my 30/60/90 days plans to learn more about the details of our organization, our programs, services, fundraising, marketing, committee & board work, strategic plans, goals, etc...Learning and listening to our board, our committees, our stakeholders, and YOU will give me a complete picture of the great things we've accomplished and the ability to utilize my experience to recommend additional goals and initiatives.

In walking into this position, I had the opportunity this past weekend to join Jimmie & Sherry Boatwright along with Tony Wade in visiting the Ranch and getting a look at our memorial at the cemetery, seeing where the new Ag Barn will go (something the CFBRAA contributes to) and I got to attend the 10 year reunion of the BR class of 2011. In addition, we got to meet Kim Reeves at the Alumni Center where we delivered pizza to the alumni receiving continued support there.

Long story short, I have a lot to learn, and I am going through that process now, but I am confident this learning transition will be relatively quick because of my experience with nonprofits and associations. I do look forward to communicating and laying out future visions, goals, and engagement opportunities as we move forward. This organization has "Continued His Work" for many years now, and I am personally excited to do my part to help lead our Association while having an even bigger impact within our mission.

In my learning process, I would love to hear from you! If there is anything you want to discuss or talk about in terms of OUR Association, please feel free to reach out at: accantx@swbell.net

Sincerely and Thank You! God Bless and cheers to the journey ahead.

Rick Bousquet