

The Haskell County News
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The

HASKELL COUNTY NEWS

Monitor  Chief

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Sublette Wall of Honor Inductees

Antonia "Tonie" Alvarado-Roper

Antonia "Tonie" Alvarado-Roper, daughter of Gabriel and Simona Alvarado, is a 1977 graduate of Sublette High School.

Tonie's family traveled as migrant farmworkers, following seasonal crops and harvests. In 1963, they arrived in Haskell County to work in the sugar beet fields and made Sublette their permanent home so Tonie could begin school.

When she entered school, Tonie spoke very little English. Through determination, hard work, and the encouragement of her teachers and family, she completed her education in the Sublette school system, becoming the first Hispanic student to graduate from Sublette High School. She remains deeply grateful to the teachers who inspired her to pursue her dreams and live life to the fullest.

After graduation, Tonie attended McPherson College before transferring to Bethany College in Lindsborg, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. During a summer break, she participated in a 31/2-month clinical study at the Na-

tional Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

Tonie pursued her passion for sewing in Wichita before moving to Kansas City, where she managed a JoAnn Fabrics store for 15 years. She also built a successful home-based business for more than 21 years, creating custom furnishings for interior designers. Her work appeared on the covers of home décor magazines and was featured in two international books.

Committed to serving her community, Tonie volunteered with a de-

signer to create award-winning showrooms benefiting the Kansas City Symphony, earning multiple "Best of Show" honors. Fluent in Spanish, she later became a certified medical interpreter and volunteered at a Kansas City Hispanic clinic.

Tonie also joined the KC Warbirds, helping lead fundraising efforts that supported the operation of a World War II B-25 bomber at Midwest airshows, including Lib-

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Debra (Malone) Brown

Debra (Malone) Brown is honored for her work with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Emergency Management. Her work in EMS began primarily in 1990 as a volunteer EMT and continued in 2011 when she became a licensed Paramedic. She became the second ever director of Sublette EMS in 2005 and added Satanta EMS in 2008. Following suggestions from Dr. Jabel, the two services were combined into Haskell County Ambulance in 2010. She then became

full time director of Haskell County Ambulance Service and has been director for a total of 21 years. This includes four full-time ambulances at Sublette, Satanta, and Lockport and 25 technicians. Deb became an Instructor/Coordinator in 1995 and began teaching EMT students from Haskell County and surrounding counties. She was a skills examiner for Southwest Kansas EMS Council - Region 2 to certify EMS skills for the Board of EMS. Deb has been president of Kansas EMT Association and

has received the Irvin E. Powell award and the Dr. Norman E. McSwain award for EMS service. Deb was instrumental in building the new Haskell County Ambulance Station in 2015.

Deb added Emergency Management Coordinator in 2009 where she prepares emergency plans and makes connections with various agencies to deal with multi-level hazards that could affect the citizens and livestock of Haskell County. She presents educational out-

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Nicki Trimpa McLain

Nicki Trimpa McLain attended Sublette Public Schools from kindergarten through 12th grade, graduating with the Class of 1978. During those years, she developed a lasting love of music. As a member of the band program, Nicki learned the value of discipline, cooperation, and striving for excellence-lessons that later shaped her commitment to leadership and public service. Her teachers at Sublette High School instilled values that contin-

ue to guide her today.

After graduation, Nicki attended the Denver School of Floral Arts. She later returned home to work at the local flower shop and help on her family's farm. Farming is a way of life in western Kansas, and it opened the door to additional opportunities for Nicki. In 1992, she expanded her agricultural career by beginning work in Pioneer seed sales.

Nicki's service has extended across agriculture, education, the arts, local government, community development, and her church. Over the years, she has served on the Sublette Cooperative Board of Directors, the USD 507 Board of Education, the Satanta Area Arts Council, the Haskell County Extension Board, the Satanta Chamber of Commerce, and the Has-

kell County Farm Service Agency Committee. She continues to serve in various leadership positions at the Sublette United Methodist Church and currently represents District 20n the Haskell County Commission.

Nicki is the proud mother of two daughters, Jennifer and Julie, and the grandmother of three granddaughters: Madeline, Mackenzie and Brecklyn. Her daughters and their families live and farm in Haskell County.

"I believe strong communities are built through compassion, partnership, and active involvement. My lifelong commitment to public service reflects my desire to give back, build meaningful relationships, and leave each organization

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Wall of Honor Banquet

The Wall of Honor Banquet will be October 24, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the Sublette High School. Tickets are on sale for 25.00 each. You may purchase tickets from Jalane Whaler at the Centera Bank or contact Nancy Weeks. The inductees this year are: Antonia "Tonie" Alvarado Roper, Class of 1977, Nicki Trimpa McLain, Class of 1978 and Debra Malone Brown, Class of 1978.

Sublette Christian Church Food Pantry

106 W. Carson Ave Thursday 11:00 AM to Noon. Other times by appointment. The pantry includes a box of food and a \$35 voucher for Venture Foods for fresh produce and frozen items.

Editor's Note

Please call or e-mail with any news. Telephone number and e-mail address are listed above. Any non-urgent news can also be dropped off at Sublette City Hall.

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