

The Magazine of the Texas Panhandle Since 1972

# Accent@West

June 2024

\$3<sup>00</sup>

Remembering  
Adobe Walls at 150

Snead & Thompson:  
HTS Commodities

Picnics, Potlucks  
and Shrimp Boils!

## the Shooting Stars of Texas

Wheeler's  
Codi &  
Stormi  
Waters



# the Shooting Stars of Texas

## Codi & Stormi Waters



By Carolina Cantrell

**I**n the heart of Wheeler, Texas, a pair of fourteen-year-old identical twins are making waves in the world of trap shooting. Meet Codi and Stormi Waters, the dynamic duo whose passion for shooting sports started at the tender age of nine. Born to Aaron and Michelle Waters, these sisters are not only breaking records but also challenging stereotypes in the world of competitive shooting.

Their journey began in third grade when they joined the 4-H shooting sports program in the spring of 2018. Introduced to shooting by their mother, what started as a lesson in firearm respect quickly turned into a love for the sport. Stormi reminisces about their humble beginnings, starting with shotguns almost as big as themselves. "We went down to the pasture, and we about quit right then because it kicked so hard. I did not like that one – not at all," she laughs.

However, their determination outweighed the recoil, and soon they were mastering the art of shooting with a 20-gauge Browning. By the age of ten, they were competing, borrowing guns and

surprising everyone with their talent. "We thought the 20-gauges would last for years, but the girls ended up doing so well that we ended up buying the big guns that they have now," their mother recalls.

In April of 2019, the family faced a new challenge when they discovered Codi's scoliosis. Despite this setback, the twins persevered, and by June of the same year, Codi placed High Over All in her first shoot, with Stormi achieving the same feat in her second shoot in June.

However, August brought another hurdle as Codi was placed in a body brace for 24 hours a day, losing all core strength. The brace was a rigid, hard plastic structure that encased her torso, extending from just above her pelvic bone to her armpit. Undeterred, she continued to shoot, adapting her technique to accommodate the brace.

Codi reflects on wearing the brace, stating, "It isn't terrible when you've had it so long. I just got used to it, I guess." This adaptability and determination define the spirit of these young champions, who continue to defy expectations and inspire others with their achievements.



Codi is holding her two favorite trophies, her 2023 State Champion buckle and 2023 Runner-up HOA cup.

Stormi is holding her Sub Jr Team National Champion plaque and her class AA National Champion Runner-up plaque



In September of 2019, Stormi purchased her own Browning XT 12 Gauge, signaling a significant milestone in their shooting journey. Their dedication and resilience were further showcased in July of 2020 when Codi acquired her Caesar Guerini Siren 12 Gauge. This acquisition marked another step forward in their pursuit of excellence.

Their first major trap shoot at the 2020 Texas State Rifle Association (TSRA) shoot was a testament to their talent, with Codi winning first in trap. Their mother's initial offer to let them keep the winnings from their first victory became a regular occurrence as they continued to win and amass a significant amount.

However, August of 2020 brought a pivotal moment as Codi began to shoot without her brace and had to be retrained. This period of adjustment required patience and perseverance, but it ultimately allowed her to regain her shooting form and continue to excel in competitions.

September of 2020 saw a new chapter in Codi's scoliosis treatment journey as she began seeing a doctor in Dallas and started physical therapy every two weeks in Bryan College Station. This commitment to her health and well-being demonstrated her determination to overcome obstacles and continue pursuing her passion for shooting.

In June of 2021, between the two of them, Codi and Stormi won High Over All female at every 4-H event they attended in the district, showcasing their dominance and skill in the sport. Their consistent success was a testament to their hard work and dedication to honing their craft.

Top:  
This is Stormi at her very first sporting clays shoot in 2019 at the St. Patrick's Day Shoot in Shamrock, Texas

Above:  
Stormi, Austin & Codi Waters Shooting at Shooting for Chefs at Defender Gun Club in Fort Worth, TX, October of 2022



# TRIANGLE REALTY

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS FOR BUYERS & SELLERS



**6955 BLUE SKY DRIVE**  
 AMARILLO, TEXAS  
 3 BED - 3 BATH / 3,186 SQFT  
 ± 5.73 Acres

The expansive windows of the home frame the picturesque scenery around you. To the left is the open concept kitchen and breakfast area featuring top-tier appliances, beautiful countertops and amazing natural-lighting. From the living room, you will find the master bedroom with an ensuite bathroom with a large walk-in closet that connects to your laundry room. Head upstairs to find the second living area with a balcony, full bathroom, a third bedroom and a bonus room. In the closet just off the kitchen there is a storm shelter. Outside, the property offers ample opportunities for outdoor recreation and leisure.



**21561 ARNOT ROAD**  
 AMARILLO, TX  
 4 BED - 3.5 BATH / 2,604 SQFT  
 DETACHED SHOP  
 ±16.66 ACRES

The property is fully fenced with welded wire with an electric entrance gate. As you enter the home, you will be greeted by the main living area that leads to the open-concept kitchen and dining room. The large master bedroom with ensuite bathroom is complete with a walk in shower, jetted tub, a vanity with a back-lit mirror, and his and hers closets! Bedrooms two and three share a jack and jill bathroom. Outside, you will find a fully insulated 40X60 shop with an RV hookup and a 19 gallon hot water heater. There is also a 22 kilowatt generator powered by the 500 gallon propane tank that will automatically turn on when the power shuts off.



SCAN TO VIEW  
 ALL LISTINGS

**THE HAYNES TEAM**  
**JT HAYNES** BROKER / OWNER





**1513 S GIRL SCOUT RD**

AMARILLO, TX

4 BED - 4 BATH / 2,639 SQFT

± 5 ACRES

EQUINE AMMENITIES

This property has a 4 bedroom, 4 bathroom house with lots of charm and natural lighting! The newly updated master bathroom includes a large shower and LED mirror perfect for getting ready for any occasion! A 50' X 60' Tedco Building holds 3 RV bays with separate septic, electric, and water, all remotely monitored for temperature, lighting, and garage doors. Along with this, includes a MD Barnmaster Horse Barn that has 5 (12'X12') stalls, 3/4" rubber matting, and electrical outlets. Two indoor/outdoor covered and lit dog runs lead to the 30'x40'x12' steel shop with an outstanding oversized tack room and workshop.



**8801 SHARMAN LOOP**

AMARILLO, TX

2 BED - 2 BATH / 2,368 SQFT

± 9 ACRES

BARNDOMINIUM

The barndominium, sitting gracefully on 9 acres, echoes the tales of bygone eras while offering contemporary comforts. Crafted with meticulous attention to detail, the structure stands tall, built to the robust standards of Gulf Coast hurricanes. Its 5" slab fortified with #4 rebar ensures not just durability but peace of mind. Inside the fully foam insulated barndominium, a harmonious blend of spaciousness and coziness awaits, with living areas spanning both floors. Stepping outside, the allure continues with generous upper and lower covered porches, beckoning one to linger and soak in the serene surroundings.

# JUNIOR SHOOT-OUT

Codi and Stormi got to spend the weekend being coached by international trap Olympic silver medalist Kayle Browning at her shooting club in Greenbriar, Arkansas



Codi won the Open Women's FFA Doubles Championship. She won the banner, a buckle and a \$10,000 scholarship. The second buckle she won was for runner-up in FFA Open Girls' Singles. She also won ten flats of shells

Stormi won FFA Women's HOA. She won the banner, a buckle and a \$10,000 scholarship. The other buckle she won was for runner-up in FFA Women's Doubles. Codi beat her in that event.

| Continued from page 27

July of 2021 marked another significant milestone as the twins became members of the ATA (Amateur Trap Association) and AIM (Academics, Integrity & Marksmanship). They attended their first shoot at the Texas State Shoot at the Amarillo Gun Club, further expanding their horizons and challenging themselves on a larger stage.

In July of 2021, they also participated in the Texas 4-H State Games for the first time, adding to their list of accomplishments and cementing their status as rising stars in the trap shooting community.

Their journey has been marked by encounters with accomplished mentors, including a notable training session with Kayle Browning in November of 2021 and again in April of 2022. Browning, who won the 2020 Olympic Silver Medal in Women's Trap, provided invaluable coaching and guidance to the twins, inspiring them to reach even greater heights in their shooting careers.

Support from the local community has also played a pivotal role in their journey. Volunteers like Clifford Oldham and Sidney Mills, both of Shamrock, TX, have been instrumental in nurturing the girls' talent. Oldham, a twin himself, shares a unique connection with the girls. "It's a twin thing, he tells them, underscoring the special bond they share.

Despite their achievements, nerves still play a

role in their performances. "We still get nervous," they admit. Yet, their resilience shines through, especially when facing adverse weather conditions. Shooting in the harsh winds of the Panhandle has toughened them, giving them a competitive edge. "Most people don't shoot in the wind. So, they aren't prepared," Stormi observes.

December of 2021 brought another twist in their journey as Stormi went to Texas Rite Hospital and was diagnosed with scoliosis. "We were there for Codi, but the doctor insisted Stormi should be tested. I really didn't think she had it," recalled their mother. Further examination revealed curvature in Stormi's spine. While not as severe as Codi's, Stormi's scoliosis merited a brace which she received a few months later. "At that point both girls were fitted for state-of-the-art braces – made with technology to measure breathing and lung expansion," their mother explained.

Following Stormi's diagnosis, both girls were introduced to Schroth therapy, a specialized method combining breathing exercises, strength training, and posture awareness. The first session in Houston was a 40-hour, five-day intensive 'camp.' The therapist taught the girls the correct exercises during this session and then provided a home exercise plan for them. Michelle shared that they redid

a whole room to turn into a therapy room. The girls do exercises 30 minutes to an hour daily. This therapy has been crucial in helping them manage their scoliosis and maintain their physical well-being while pursuing their passion for shooting.

From the outside looking in, it is inspiring to see everything the girls are accomplishing. They are chasing their goals and not letting anything get in the way. Summer of 2022 was filled with wins. The girls shot in the Texas 4-H State Games where Stormi won Intermediate Trap Champion, and Codi won Intermediate Sporting Clays 3rd place. At the Grand Nationals ATA Shoot in Sparta, Illinois, Stormi won AIM Grand National Singles Champion Open Runner-Up, High All Around Female Sub Junior Champion and Team Champion.

Quite appropriately with such success, Stormi appeared on the cover of Trap & Field Magazine in September of 2022. A few months later, she was featured in the magazine again with a full-length article.

Then at the Junior Shoot Out San Antonio Livestock Show in February of 2023, Stormi won American Trap Doubles earning a \$10,000 scholarship and placed 2nd in American Trap winning \$2,000 and 10 flats of shells. Codi won 2nd in American Trap Doubles, winning \$2,000 and 10 flats of shells.

In October of 2023, Stormi was released from wearing her scoliosis brace, and Codi started wearing her brace only at night time. This was a big milestone for the family after such a long journey to overcome the condition.

This year, the twins returned to win big at San Antonio again. Codi was the Trap Doubles – Open Girls FFA Champion and Stormi was the HOA – Open Girls FFA Champion. Each received a \$10,000 scholarship, exclusively applicable within Texas. Codi also placed 2nd in American Trap



winning another \$2,000 and 10 flats of shells. Stormi came in 2nd in American Trap Doubles earning herself another \$2,000 and 10 flats of shells, too.

Beyond their prowess on the shooting range, both Codi and Stormi excel academically, maintaining straight A's in their studies. Additionally, they actively participate in other sports, including basketball and track, showcasing their versatility and competitive spirit. Their parents, Aaron and Michelle Waters, are incredibly proud of their daughters' integrity, character, and dedication to giving their all in everything they pursue.

With their eyes set on furthering their education, Codi and Stormi plan to utilize their scholarships for dual credit courses through Clarendon College, aiming to pursue their ultimate dream of attending Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. Lindenwood's prestigious program offers a diverse range of shooting sports, including American skeet and trap, international skeet and trap, and the emerging discipline of 5-stand.

As they continue to blaze a trail in the world of shooting sports, Codi and Stormi Waters prove that age is just a number when passion and perseverance are at play. With each shot, they redefine what it means to be champions, inspiring those around them to aim higher and never give up on their dreams. *AW*