

# Seaboard Foods and Main Street Guymon

PRESENT



▶ **Pangaea** is a hypothetical supercontinent that included all current land masses, believed to have been in existence before the continents broke apart during the Triassic and Jurassic Periods.

## Celebrating the diversity of our community.

Seven course meal with stories from seven families representing the seven continents with foods from each family's subculture making up the meal.

**March 9, 2021**



# Welcome to

# PANGAEA



Main Street Guymon has a motto, "Building relationships...one handshake at a time."

Tonight is our opportunity to learn about seven families from seven continents. We're building relationships spanning the world...right here in Guymon, Oklahoma.

This event was made possible through many partnerships and with the help of many volunteers. Our planning committee includes:

**Jada Breeden**, *Guymon Chamber of Commerce*

**JuliAnn Graham**, *TCEC*

**Norma Green**, *PTCI*

**Melyn Johnson**, *Main Street Guymon*

**Soila Medina**, *AirPro*

**Nayeli Mesta**, *PCHC*

**Shelby Red Corn**, *Arts & Humanities*

**David Watkins**, *Seaboard Foods*

**Charles White**, *State Farm Insurance*



# TASTING MENU

*Special thanks to Virgil Gibson for catering tonight's menu.  
Special thanks to Guymon High School Student Council and  
the OPSU Basketball Team for serving.*

## **Europe Scones**

**England** A scone is a baked good, usually made of wheat, or oatmeal with baking powder as a leavening agent and baked on sheet pans. A scone is often slightly sweetened and occasionally glazed with egg wash. The scone is a basic component of the cream tea.

## **Central (South) America Kak'ik**

**Guatemala** This rustic turkey soup, often served when christening a new home in Guatemala, has a sweet-sour broth made from puréed tomatoes, tomatillos, and lots of garlic.

## **Antarctica Cheesy Broccoli**

**Special Needs** Broccoli is one of Ruthie's favorite foods.

## **Africa Jollof Rice (Dirty Rice) with Black-Eyed Peas**

**Nigeria**

There are many different ways to cook Jollof Rice, a dish made with rice, tomatoes, tomato paste, onions, scotch bonnet peppers, salt, and spices.

## **North America Griot**

**Haita** Consists of pork shoulder marinated in citrus, which is braised and then fried, and is commonly served at parties in Haiti. Griot along with diri ak pwa wouj is considered by some to be Haiti's "national dish".

## **Asia Turmeric Chicken and Forbidden rice**

**Myanmar (formerly Burma)**

Forbidden Rice, or black rice has a deep black color and usually turns deep purple when cooked. Its dark purple color is primarily due to its anthocyanin content, which is higher by weight than that of other colored grains.

## **Australia/Oceania Pavlova**

**New Zealand**

Pavlova is a meringue-based dessert named after the Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova. It has a crisp crust and soft, light inside, usually topped with fruit and whipped cream.



# PROGRAM

<b>Introduction</b>	Emcee . . . . . <i>David Player, South Africa</i>
<b>Welcome</b>	Main Street Guymon. . . . . <i>Charles White</i>
<b>Parade of Flags</b>	Participants carry flags from country of origin
<b>Colors Posted</b>	Scout Troop . . . . . <i>Guymon</i>
<b>Invocation</b>	. . . . . <i>Peter Adup, South Africa</i>
<b>Meal Served</b>	Guymon High School. . . . . <i>Student Council</i> OPSU . . . . . <i>Basketball Team</i>
<b>Europe</b>	England. . . . . <i>Liz McCulloch</i> <i>Sponsor: PTCI</i>
<b>Central America</b> <i>(South America)</i>	Guatemala . . . . . <i>Kyle Weber and Tomas Suar</i> <i>Sponsor: TCEC</i>
<b>Antarctica</b>	Special Needs . . . . . <i>Ruthie Lang</i> <i>Sponsor: State Farm Insurance, Charles White</i>
<b>Africa</b>	Nigeria. . . . . <i>Elizabeth Umemba</i> <i>Sponsor: PCHC</i>
<b>North America</b>	Haiti . . . . . <i>Neptune Joseph</i> <i>Sponsor: Seaboard Foods</i>
<b>Asia</b>	Myanmar . . . . . <i>Mang Lian</i> <i>Sponsor: Bank of the Panhandle</i>
<b>Australia/Oceania</b>	New Zealand . . . . . <i>Garrett Martinez</i> <i>Sponsor: Results Realty</i>



Continent: **EUROPE**

Country: England

---

**E**ngland is a country that is part of the United Kingdom, sharing land borders with Wales to its west and Scotland to its north. The Irish Sea lies northwest of England and the Celtic Sea to the southwest. England is separated from continental Europe by the North Sea to the east and the English Channel to the south. The country covers five-eighths of the island of Great Britain, which lies in the North Atlantic, and includes over 100 smaller islands, such as the Isles of Scilly and the Isle of Wight.

The area now called England was first inhabited by modern humans during the Upper Paleolithic period, but takes its name from the Angles, a Germanic tribe deriving its name from the Anglia peninsula, who settled during the 5th and 6th centuries. England became a unified state in the 10th century, and since the Age of Discovery, which began during the 15th century, has had a significant cultural and legal impact on the wider world. The English language, the Anglican Church, and English law – the basis for the common law legal systems of many other countries around the world – developed in England, and the country's parliamentary system of government has been widely adopted by other nations. The Industrial Revolution began in 18th-century England, transforming its society into the world's first industrialized nation.

England's terrain is chiefly low hills and plains, especially in central and southern England. However, there is upland and mountainous terrain in the north and in the west. The capital is London, which has the largest metropolitan area in both the United Kingdom. England's population of over 55 million comprises 84% of the population of the United Kingdom, largely concentrated around London.

The Kingdom of England, which after 1535 included Wales, ceased being a separate sovereign state on May 1, 1707, when the Acts of Union put into effect the terms agreed in the Treaty of Union the previous year, resulting in a political union with the Kingdom of Scotland to create the Kingdom of Great Britain. In 1801, Great Britain was united with the Kingdom of Ireland (through another Act of Union) to become the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. In 1922, the Irish Free State seceded from the United Kingdom, leading to the latter being renamed the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

England's economy is one of the largest and most dynamic in the world. Usually regarded as a mixed market economy, it has adopted many free market principles, yet maintains an advanced social welfare infrastructure.

## England: Liz McCulloch

*Sponsor: PTCI*

**Invariably, the first time someone** hears Liz McCulloch speak, they try to place her accent. It doesn't matter whether she is in the United States, which is her current home, or in England, where she was born and lived until she was five years old. In the U.S., the guesses range from Australia to Boston to England and other points of the English - speaking world. In England, they think she sounds like an American. "Mum's accent is still very strong English. She hasn't lost her accent at all," says Liz. "Mine is such a mixture. Half English/Half American."

Liz was born in Oxford, England, and grew up on the edge of town in Watlington, England. Her father, Robert, worked on a farm and her mother, Julie, was a gardener where she created a beautiful garden at their home. Her father, and the farm he worked on, won an award in England for "The Best Pig Herd" in the country. Rob, and Mary Roadnight (his boss) even went up to London to accept the award and give a presentation. Shortly after this recognition, he was hired by Seaboard. Originally, they were to go to Springfield, Colorado where they were meant to be for about two years. The location then changed to Guymon, Oklahoma where they have been living for over 25 years.

Upon arrival, her brother Ian was 10 years old, Jen was 7, Liz was 5, and Andrew was 3. They all graduated from Guymon High School and are all here as legal residents, but citizens of England.

The family has returned regularly to England for vacations. "I still love England," explains Liz. "I love the beauty, the scenery, the architecture, and most of all, I love that people know how to talk to each other. Their quality of life is beautiful. People in the United States can be all about their cell phones. Here, it seems we just work and work



**Liz McCulloch**

and work. We work a lot to create a better life, which is a great thing, but in England they work hard, but they take time to live and speak to each other. To have conversations with each other. It just seems there's a bit of a better balance in England.

"The people I love are mostly here in Oklahoma," she says with a grin and a shrug. "That explains how you have two homes." She also loves the lack of traffic in Guymon and the "beauty of the spring and summer sunrises and sunsets."

Not only is Liz known around the area for her accent, but she also has a reputation as being one of the most enthusiastic and positive people in town. Everyone around her has a smile on their face.

Her father retired from Seaboard several years ago and her mother works seasonally at Helm's Garden Shop where "she is truly in her element," says Liz. Liz is employed at Anchor D Bank in Guymon.



## Continent: **CENTRAL AMERICA** (**SOUTH AMERICA**)

Country: Guatemala

**G**uatemala is a country in Central America bordered by Mexico, Belize, the Caribbean Sea, Honduras, El Salvador, and the Pacific Ocean. With a population of over 16.5 million, it is the most populated country in Central America.

The first evidence of human habitation in Guatemala dates back to 12,000 BC. The territory of modern Guatemala once formed the core of the Maya civilization, which extended across Mesoamerica. Most of the country was conquered by the Spanish in the 16th century, becoming part of the viceroyalty of New Spain. Guatemala attained independence in 1821 as part of the Federal Republic of Central America, which dissolved by 1841.

From the mid to late 19th century, Guatemala experienced chronic instability and civil strife. Beginning in the early 20th century, it was ruled by a series of dictators backed by the United Fruit Company and the United States government.

From 1960 to 1996, Guatemala endured a bloody civil war fought between the US-backed government and leftist rebels, including genocidal massacres of the Maya population. Since a United Nations-negotiated peace accord, Guatemala has witnessed both economic growth and successful democratic elections, though it continues to struggle with high rates of poverty, crime, drug trade, and instability.

Killings and death squads have been common in Guatemala since the end of the civil war in 1996. In July 2004, the Inter-American Court condemned the 18 July 1982, massacre of 188 Achi-Maya in Plan de Sanchez, and ruled the Guatemalan Army guilty of genocide. This followed 626 massacres reported in Guatemala's 1980s scorched-earth campaign where in those massacres, 83% of the victims were Maya and 17% Latino.

In 2008, Guatemala became the first country to officially recognize femicide, the murder of a female because of her gender, as a crime. Guatemala has the third-highest femicide rate in the world, after El Salvador and Jamaica, with around 9.1 murders every 100,000 women from 2007 to 2012.

Guatemala is the largest economy in Central America, with a GDP per capita of US \$5,200. Some of Guatemala's main exports are fruits, vegetables, flowers, handicrafts, cloths and others.

Guatemala's sole official language is Spanish, spoken by 93 percent of the population as either the first or second language. Twenty-one Mayan languages are spoken, especially in rural areas, as well as two non-Mayan Amerindian.

Christianity continues to remain strong and vital for the life of Guatemalan society. A 2012 survey reveals Catholics at 47.6%, Protestants at 38.2%, other religions at 2.6%, and the non-religious at 11.6%.

## Guatemala: Kyle Weber and Tomas Suar Sponsor: TCEC

**Kyle Weber, TCEC construction foreman,** spoke at the cooperative's 2019 annual meeting about his experience bringing electricity to the rural village of Sillab in Guatemala. He had returned to the United States just days before the meeting.

Weber began his tale by thanking his wife, Samantha for her support and for taking care of their children Kendall, 7, and Keegan, 5, while he was gone for 3 weeks.

When speaking, Weber came to tears when talking about a young boy, about seven years old, who walked three-quarters of a mile in mountainous terrain to carry water for his family.

"Hard work there starts at a young age, just to survive," Weber said. "I couldn't imagine asking my kids to do that for my family. We take water for granted here."

Many people listening that day were also moved to tears. Tomas Suar was so moved he came up to meet Weber after the meeting and the two have become friends.

"I lived in those exact conditions," Suar said. "It brings me tremendous joy that TCEC sent Kyle to help my people."

After growing up in the rural area of Quiché in Guatemala, at 18 years old Suar traveled across Mexico to the U.S. It took him about 60 days to cross Mexico. He eventually arrived in Houston, Texas. He spent six months in construction roofing. Then, friends invited him to come to Guymon. He saved bus money and came here 22 years ago.

Suar worked for Seaboard from 1998 until 2014. He met his wife Aura at Seaboard. She is also from Guatemala. They married in 2003 after dating four years. Together, they have four children: Jason, 17, Angel 16, Betsabé 11, David 5. Their children attend Guymon Public Schools.

Suar said Guymon is his home now and he plans to stay in this community. Some people come to Guymon from other



Tomas Suar, left, meets Kyle Weber of TCEC at the 2019 annual meeting.

countries to make their fortune so they can return to their home country and live better lives. Suar said that's not for him. He's raising his family and making his life here for the foreseeable future.

"My biggest advice to others is that anything is possible if you put in the effort," Suar said. "If you have a dream, you can achieve it if you put your whole self into it."

Suar said he loves the United States and he prays for the government and people here. He called the U.S. a world of opportunities because he's achieved his dreams, goals and aspirations.

"If I hadn't come here, I wouldn't have been able to accomplish what I have today in my home country," Suar said.

Weber's story made such a strong impact on Suar because the people Weber helped are like the people where Suar grew up in Guatemala. He lived that life and can relate to Kyle's story.

Their friendship is a testament to the impact an international journey like Weber's can have on multiple lives, not only in that country but also on lives here in the United States.

# Continent: ANTARCTICA



---

**A**ntarctica is the southernmost continent and contains the South Pole. It is almost entirely south of the Antarctic Circle, surrounded by the Southern Ocean. With 5,400,000 square miles, it is the fifth-largest continent, and about 98% of Antarctica is covered by ice.

Antarctica, on average, is the coldest, driest, and windiest continent, and has the highest average elevation of all the continents. Antarctica is a desert, with annual precipitation of only 8 inches along the coast and far less inland. The temperature in Antarctica has reached  $-128.6^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Anywhere from 1,000 to 5,000 people reside throughout the year at research stations scattered across the continent.

Although myths and speculation about a Terra Australis ("Southern Land") date back to antiquity, Antarctica is noted as the last region on Earth in recorded history to be discovered, unseen until 1820 when the Russian expedition of Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen and Mikhail Lazarev on Vostok and Mirny sighted the

Fimbul ice shelf. The continent, however, remained largely neglected for the rest of the 19th century because of its hostile environment, lack of easily accessible resources, and isolation. In 1895, the first confirmed landing was conducted by a team of Norwegians.

Here at Pangaea we are using Antarctica to focus on a population in our community that is often overlooked. The Special Needs community is the name today used for those of us who have physical and/or mental disabilities. Members of the Special Needs Community can have a life that is reflective of Antarctica, ie a hostile environment, lack of accessibility, and isolation. Today, as we meet Ruthie, let us consider the challenge to include and recognize our Special Needs neighbors. Work to make a place for them in our life and consider them when planning things. Although it is not always apparent who is disabled, we should strive to be more inclusive and kind.

## Special Needs: Ruthie Lang

*Sponsor: State Farm Insurance, Charles White Agency*

**Ruthie Lang recently had her 83rd birthday, but she still considers herself to be a youngster.**

"I am just a young girl," Ruthie says.

Ruthie, who has some developmental challenges, has been a client at the Panhandle Area Sheltered Workshop for many years. She has worked at the Thrift Store and also on the Cleaning Crew. These days she does about 150 pieces daily, hanging up clothing at the Thrift Store.

Terry Brand met Ruthie in 2008 when they both worked at the Panhandle Area Sheltered Workshop. Today Terry works one-on-one with Ruthie as her Habitation Training Specialist after Ruthie gets off work at the store.

"She enjoys working," says Terry. "She also loves jigsaw puzzles. When I first started working with Ruthie we would do 1,000 piece puzzles and she would tell me that I just needed 'to put my mind to it.' She was always better at it than me and we tease one another.

"Everybody loves Ruthie," says Terry. "She is a good human being who is always happy (unless I have irritated her). She is a person that will always help people. She does what she is told and always has a smile on her face. She is a tough lady.

"Ruthie is good at taking care of herself. She can write her name, knows her colors and letters. Time is something that doesn't really concern her. It is difficult for some people to understand Ruthie, but I have no problem understanding her. She has never been married, nor does she have children.



**Ruthie Lang**

"People treat Ruthie well. I think it is because she has such a winning personality. She is accepting of everyone and is always kind to others. She is very personable."

Terry enjoys taking Ruthie to community events and they have volunteered at several Main Street Guymon activities. They attended the Christmas Eve services at the Lutheran Church in December and they like going to movies, too.

"She will go anywhere, especially to get her hair and nails done" says Terry, "but she is tired by 7 pm."

When Terry's family has holiday meals together, Ruthie is invited.

She's one of my best friends," says Terry.



# Continent: **AFRICA**

Country: **Nigeria**

---

**N**igeria is a country located in West Africa bordering Niger in the north, Chad in the northeast, Cameroon in the east, and Benin in the west. Its southern coast is on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. Nigeria is a federal republic comprising 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, where the capital, Abuja, is located.

Nigeria has been home to a number of ancient and indigenous pre-colonial states and kingdoms over the millennia. The modern state originated from British colonial rule beginning in the 19th century. The British set up administrative and legal structures while practicing indirect rule through traditional chiefdoms; Nigeria became a formally independent federation on Oct. 1, 1960. It experienced a civil war from 1967 to 1970. It thereafter alternated between democratically-elected civilian governments and military dictatorships until it achieved a stable democracy in 1999, with the 2015 presidential election marking the first time an incumbent president had lost re-election.

A multinational state, Nigeria is inhabited by more than 250 ethnic groups with over 500 distinct languages all identifying with a wide variety of cultures. The three largest ethnic groups are the Hausa-Fulani in the north, Yoruba in the west, and Igbo in the east; comprising over 60% of the total population.

The official language of Nigeria is English, chosen to facilitate linguistic unity at the national level. Nigeria is divided roughly in half between Muslims, who live mostly in the north, and Christians, who live mostly in the south. Nigeria has respectively, the fifth-largest Muslim population in the world and the sixth-largest Christian population in the world, with the constitution ensuring freedom of religion.

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world, with an estimated 206 million inhabitants as of late 2019. Nigeria has the third-largest youth population in the world, after India and China, with more than 90 million of its population under the age of eighteen. Nigeria has the largest economy in Africa and is the world's 24th largest economy, worth more than \$500 billion and \$1 trillion in terms of nominal GDP and purchasing power parity, respectively. Nigeria is a lower middle-income economy with a gross national income per capita between \$1,026 and \$3,986. Nigeria is often referred to as the "Giant of Africa", owing to its large population and economy, it is also considered to be an emerging market by the World Bank; it has been identified as a regional power on the African continent, a middle power in international affairs, and has also been identified as an emerging global power.

**Nigeria:** Elizabeth Umemba  
*Sponsor: PCHC*



**Elizabeth Umemba and family**

**Given her many choices of** places to accept a job offer, Elizabeth Osinachakachi (meaning “gift of God” in Ibo) Umemba chose Guymon, Oklahoma. This young psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner unpacked her bags and took a position with the Panhandle Counseling and Health Center.

The road to Guymon started in eastern Nigeria, Africa, where she and her seven siblings (three brothers and four sisters) were born members of the Ibo tribe. Her family moved from Nigeria to Duncanville, Texas, 12 years ago.

Umemba was attending the university in Nigeria where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. There she also met her husband, who became a doctor.

Nursing was an obvious choice of professions by Umemba who was born in a medical family. The common professions with her immediate family, uncles, and cousins is doctor, nurse, and pharmacist.

She earned her Masters in Nursing at Walden University in Minneapolis.

“I always wanted to be a psych nurse,” tells the calm young woman, in her perfect English, who has wanted to work to help take away the stigma that many people have about mental illness.

Having received a recruiting offer from Guymon, Elizabeth visited in 2018.

“I liked it here,” she says. “It is a quiet place. It looks to be a good place to raise children.”

She and her four-year-old daughter, Serena, and nine-month-old son, Benjamin, moved to Guymon in the Spring of 2019. Her husband is fulfilling a four - year residency to be able to practice in the United States.

Elizabeth, raised a Catholic, looks forward to spending time traveling in the area with her family and spending more time with her extended family in the Dallas area.



## Continent: **NORTH AMERICA**

Country: Haiti

---

**H**aiti is located on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea, to the east of Cuba and Jamaica and south of The Bahamas. It occupies the western 3/8 of the island which it shares with the Dominican Republic. Haiti is 10,714 square miles and has a population of 11.1 million.

The island was originally inhabited by the indigenous Taino people, who migrated from South America.

The first Europeans arrived on Dec. 5, 1492 during the first voyage of Christopher Columbus, who believed he had found India or China. Columbus founded the first European settlement in the Americas, La Navidad, on what is now the northeastern coast of Haiti. The island was claimed by Spain and named La Española, forming part of the Spanish Empire until the early 17th century. However, competing claims and settlements by the French led to the western portion of the island being ceded to France in 1697, which was subsequently named Saint-Domingue. French colonists established lucrative sugarcane plantations, worked by slaves brought from Africa.

In the midst of the French Revolution (1789–99), slaves and free people of color launched the Haitian Revolution (1791–1804), led by a former slave and the first black general of the French Army, Toussaint Louverture. After 12 years of conflict, Napoleon Bonaparte's

forces were defeated by Louverture's successor, Jean-Jacques Dessalines (later Emperor Jacques I), who declared Haiti's sovereignty on Jan. 1, 1804, becoming the first independent nation of Latin America and the Caribbean, the second republic in the Americas, the first country to abolish slavery, and the only state in history established by a successful slave revolt.

Fearful of the impact the slave rebellion could have in the slave states, U.S. President Thomas Jefferson refused to recognize the new republic.

After a brief period in which the country was split in two, President Jean-Pierre Boyer united the country and attempted to bring the whole of Hispaniola under Haitian control. In the 1870s Haiti formally recognized the independence of the Dominican Republic. Haiti's first century of independence was characterized by political instability, ostracism by the international community, and the payment of a crippling debt to France.

Since 1986 Haiti has been attempting to establish a more democratic political system. The World Factbook reports 3/4 of the population lives on \$2 or less per day.

Haiti is the world's leading producer of vetiver, a root plant used to make luxury perfumes, essential oils and fragrances, providing for half the world's supply. Haiti relies upon imports for half its food needs and 80% of its rice.

## **Haiti: Neptune Joseph** *Sponsor: Seaboard Foods*

**Neptune Joseph left Haiti with his** parents and seven siblings when he was in second grade. Speaking Creole and French, he soon learned English in school. Although landowners in Haiti, his parents wanted their children to have the opportunities that they felt America would provide for their children. His family moved to Miami, Florida, where there is a large population of Haitians.

Even though they might own land in Haiti, the family was poor in Florida. "We were poor enough that some mornings my mom told me to eat the breakfast cereal with a fork so my sister could use the milk, too," Neptune says with a laugh. His mom raised he and his seven siblings to work hard, study hard, and go to church regularly. "We knew a lot was expected of us," tells Nep, "and I always thought I owed it to my mom to do well because she had given up so much for a better chance for us."

When Neps youngest sibling graduated from high school, their mom started spending most of her time back in Haiti. His father had always worked between the U.S. and Haiti.

One older brother played basketball in high school, one boxed, one became a Florida Highway Patrolman after serving time in the U.S. Navy, another became a chef, and one sister is in medical school. The Joseph children have honored their parents by choosing well.



**Neptune Joseph**

Neptune choose football at a young age and did well. He had his sights set to play for Division I West Virginia and ignored all other offers. When signing day past, Neptune realized that he had missed his dream of West Virginia. He had the chance to don the uniform for Oklahoma Panhandle State University and did.

Coming to the quiet Panhandle after Miami, a big city with many distractions, Neptune realized God had led him to a place where he could choose the man he wanted to be. Without a car, working out, attending class, and doing homework was the makeup of his days. Graduating with a major in Biology from OPSU four years ago, Neptune then began working for Seaboard Foods.



Continent: **ASIA**

Country: Myanmar (Burma)

---

**M**yanmar also known as Burma, is in Southeast Asia, bordered by India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Laos, and China. The population is about 54 million and 261,228 square miles in size.

The Bamar people established the Pagan Kingdom in the 1050s and the Burmese language, culture and Theravada Buddhism slowly became dominant in the country. The Pagan Kingdom fell due to the Mongol invasions and several warring states emerged.

The eighteenth century saw Burmese rulers, whose country had not previously been of particular interest to European traders, being pressed by the British East India Company, which was expanding its interests eastwards. Over the next sixty years, diplomacy, raids, treaties and compromises continued until, after three Anglo-Burmese Wars (1824–1885), Britain proclaimed control over most of Burma.

Burma came under British rule on January 1, 1886. Throughout the colonial era, many Indians arrived as soldiers, civil servants, construction workers and traders and, along with the Anglo-Burmese community, dominated commercial and civil life in Burma.

Myanmar became independent in 1948. Following a coup d'état in 1962,

it became a military dictatorship under the Burma Socialist Programme Party.

For most of its independent years, the country has been engrossed in rampant ethnic strife and its myriad ethnic groups have been involved in one of the world's longest-running ongoing civil wars. During this time, the United Nations and several other organizations have reported consistent and systematic human rights violations in the country.

Myanmar is a country rich in jade and gems, oil, natural gas and other mineral resources. The income gap in Myanmar is among the widest in the world, as a large proportion of the economy is controlled by supporters of the former military government.

All names in Myanmar are personal, meaning people do not have surnames. Names are not inherited from parents or family as in Western cultures. Most names have one to four syllables (e.g., Aung San Suu Gyi). Names often have double syllables, for example a female name Te Te Soe and a male name Kyaw Kyaw Bo. People are usually called by a titular prefix based on family relationship:

U/Oo (uncle) – mature male (Mr.)

Daw (aunt) – married, mature female (Mrs)

**Myanmar (Burma): Mang Lian**  
*Sponsor: Bank of the Panhandle*

**Mang Lian was born in Tedim, Chin State of Myanmar (Burma)** in February 1983. His parents are Christian of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and they raised him in a Christian School.

He left Burma in 2005 and went to Malaysia because of the persecution of his people, the Zomi, under the military rule of the country. The same persecution was being done to the Karen people of Southern Burma who are also predominantly Christian (oftentimes Lutheran), some of whom have also settled in Guymon.

He met his would be wife, Dim Niang, while in high school in Burma and they became engaged in 1999. While in Malaysia he married his wife in 2007. They came to the United States in 2008, first arriving in Battle Creek, Michigan, with refugee status, where he stayed six months, waiting for a job.

While he was in Michigan, his brother traveled to Guymon, Oklahoma, and began working for Seaboard Foods. Mang followed his brother and took a job at Seaboard.

In Spring of 2011, Mang quit his job and enrolled as a full-time student at Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell. Two years later, in 2013, he and his wife became American citizens. In 2015, Mang graduated from OPSU with a degree in mathematics. The same year he started serving as a part-time pastor at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Guymon and then became the full-time minister.



**Mang Lian**

In 2016, his parents came to the United States to visit their children, and then they became permanent residents.

Last year in 2020, Mang graduated from Andrews University with the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry.

Mang says he enjoys being here with his family and he appreciates Guymon because there is no traffic. Also his family can live in a quiet and safe neighborhood. He enjoys helping others in the community. He started senior services to help senior citizens who are over 60, who need help with yard work, house cleaning, or other odd jobs, wherever needed by senior citizens in Guymon.

Mang and his wife Dim have three children, two boys, Chris Lian 10, Steve Lian 4, and a daughter Grace Lian.



# Continent: OCEANIA/AUSTRALIA

Country: New Zealand

**N**ew Zealand is an island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. It consists of two main landmasses - the North Island and the South Island - and around 600 smaller islands, covering a total area of 103,500 square miles. New Zealand is about 1,200 miles east of Australia across the Tasman Sea and 600 miles south of the islands of New Caledonia, Fiji, and Tonga. New Zealand's capital city is Wellington. Its most populous city is Auckland.

Owing to their remoteness, the islands of New Zealand were the last large habitable lands to be settled by humans. Between about 1280 and 1350, Polynesians began to settle in the islands, and developed a distinctive Māori culture. In 1642, Dutch explorer Abel Tasman became the first European to sight New Zealand. In 1840, representatives of the United Kingdom and Māori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi, which declared British sovereignty over the islands. In 1841, New Zealand became a colony within the British Empire and in 1907 it became a dominion; it gained full statutory independence in 1947 and the British monarch remained the head of state. Today, the majority of New Zealand's population of 5 million is of European descent; the indigenous Māori are the largest minority, followed by Asians and Pacific Islanders. Reflecting this, New Zealand's culture is mainly derived from

Māori and early British settlers, with recent broadening arising from increased immigration. The official languages are English and Māori, English is dominant.

A developed country, New Zealand ranks highly in international comparisons of national performance in quality of life, education, protection of civil liberties, government transparency, and economic freedom. New Zealand underwent major economic changes during the 1980s, which transformed it from a protectionist to a liberalized free-trade economy. The service sector dominates the national economy, followed by the industrial sector, and agriculture; international tourism is a significant source of revenue. Nationally, legislative authority is vested in an elected, unicameral Parliament, while executive political power is exercised by the Cabinet, led by the prime minister, currently Jacinda Ardern. Queen Elizabeth II is the country's monarch and is represented by a governor-general, currently Dame Patsy Reddy. In addition, New Zealand is organized into 11 regional councils and 67 territorial authorities for local government purposes. The Realm of New Zealand also includes Tokelau (a dependent territory); the Cook Islands and Niue (self-governing states in free association with New Zealand); and the Ross Dependency, which is New Zealand's territorial claim in Antarctica.

## New Zealand: Garrett Martinez

### Sponsor: Results Realty

**Garrett Martinez of Guymon** is a farmer by trade. While working not only for Hyer Farms but formerly Hitch Farms, he has met many farmers from other countries who work on the harvest crews that come through Guymon.

While visiting, Garrett planned to travel to New Zealand and work on the farms there from October to March in 2019-2020. During our winter months, it is summer in New Zealand and the busy farming season.

"I wanted to learn more about corn production in other areas of the world and New Zealand came up as a great opportunity I couldn't pass up," explained Garrett.

It was a 13-hour flight from San Francisco to Auckland, North Island, New Zealand. The journey is directly over the Pacific Ocean.

Once arriving there, he lived with the company owner and his family in The Waikato Region, North Island.

On the island are many volcanic mountains that hold glaciers and snow on their peaks year around and 20 minutes away from one of the larger mountains is the Tasman sea with multiple beaches to enjoy. The young American enjoyed going on hikes, much of it being through rainforest fauna. "It didn't matter where you're at there, the views are beautiful," he recalls.

"To get an idea of where I was," tells Garrett. "75% of the Lord of the Rings movie was filmed on North Island, so seeing these amazing movie landscapes in person was breathtaking."

Garrett found the people – they are called Kiwis – to be nice and friendly. He found the Kiwis to have open discussions about all types of subjects, including controversial subjects.

The indigenous peoples of New Zealand, the Maoris, are treated with great respect and there is a sense of cohesiveness between them and the English who came. There is an underlying feeling that the English always make a point of acknowledging the wrongs they did to them in the past.



**Garrett Martinez**

The signs there are written in English and Maori. The greeting everyone uses is in the Maori language.

The people live a laid-back style and aren't in a big hurry.

"Nothing about New Zealand is big and grand," says Garrett. "You know the new convenience store we have going up here in Guymon? You would never see anything that large in New Zealand. They seem to carry the attitude that they are but a small country and enjoy it."

While living and working in New Zealand, Garrett found a sense of partnership and friendship with the Kiwis and also with the many other foreign workers who were spending their winter months working in the southern hemisphere.

"I learned things about how other countries operated as well as the New Zealanders," says Garrett.

The young farmer from Guymon, Oklahoma says he has a thirst to see other places in the future. But home has always been the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandle. Born in Guymon and raised in the upper Texas Panhandle, he came back to Guymon to work for Hyer Farms, partially because his grandparents, Ernest and Mabel Martinez and Max and Maxine Griego, still live here. After graduating from high school in Fritch, Texas, he graduated college from Tarleton State in Stephenville, Texas.

# PRESENTING SPONSORS

## ABOUT MAIN STREET GUYMON

*Our mission is: Promoting the history, culture, and commerce of the downtown district.*

Over the past 30 years, the Main Street movement has transformed the way communities think about the revitalization and management of their downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. Cities and towns across the nation have come to see that a prosperous, sustainable community is only as healthy as its core.

The Main Street Four-Point Approach® is a unique preservation-based economic development tool that enables communities to revitalize downtown and neighborhood business districts by leveraging local assets—from historic, cultural, and architectural resources to local enterprises and community pride. It is a comprehensive strategy that addresses the variety of issues and problems that challenge traditional commercial districts.

As a unique economic development tool, the Main Street Four-Point Approach® is the foundation for local initiatives to revitalize their districts by leveraging local assets—from cultural or architectural heritage to local enterprises and community pride.

The four points of the Main Street approach work together to build a sustainable and complete community revitalization effort. They are Organization, Promotion, Design, and Economic Reconstruction.

To learn more about Main Street Guymon, visit [www.mainstreetguymon.com](http://www.mainstreetguymon.com)

## ABOUT CITY OF GUYMON

Guymon, population 14,000, is the largest city in the Panhandle's 6,000 sq. mile radius. It is rich in agriculture, natural gas, bio-fuels, & wind development.

For more information, visit [www.guymonok.org](http://www.guymonok.org)

## ABOUT SEABOARD FOODS

Seaboard Foods LLC, with headquarters in Merriam, Kan., is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Seaboard Corporation and a leading food company connecting every step between farms and family tables around the world. Seaboard Foods employs more than 5,000 people working at farm operations in five states and a pork processing plant in Guymon, Oklahoma. Seaboard Foods also owns High Plains Bioenergy, which has biodiesel and compressed natural gas (CNG) operations. As part of a uniquely connected food system, Seaboard Foods and its strategic partner, Triumph Foods, jointly own Seaboard Triumph Foods, with a pork processing plant in Sioux City, Iowa, and Daily's® Premium Meats, which produces and markets raw and precooked bacon, ham and sausage, with plants in Salt Lake City; Missoula, Montana, and St. Joseph, Missouri. Seaboard Foods markets and sells fresh pork products produced by the Guymon, Oklahoma, St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sioux City, Iowa, fresh pork processing plants under the Prairie Fresh® and Seaboard Farms® brands.

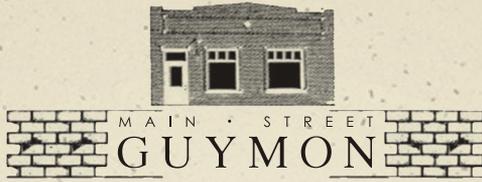
For more information, visit [www.seaboardfoods.com](http://www.seaboardfoods.com).

## ABOUT OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES

Oklahoma Humanities grants encourage cultural programming on the local level across the state. Eligible projects must support the council's mission to strengthen communities by helping Oklahomans learn about the human experience, understand new perspectives, and participate knowledgeably in civic life. This program is funded in part by Oklahoma Humanities (OH) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the program do not necessarily represent those of OH or NEH.

For more information, visit [www.okhumanities.org](http://www.okhumanities.org).





OKLAHOMA  
HUMANITIES