

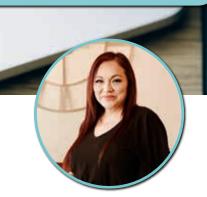
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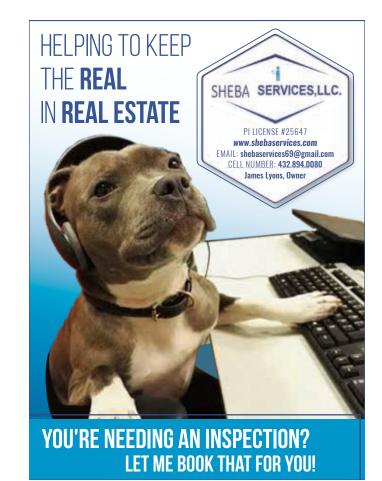
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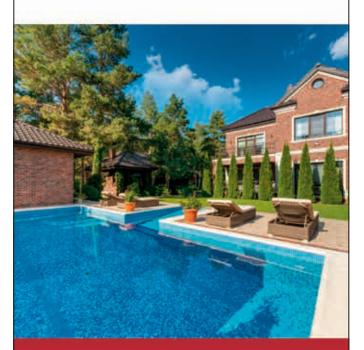
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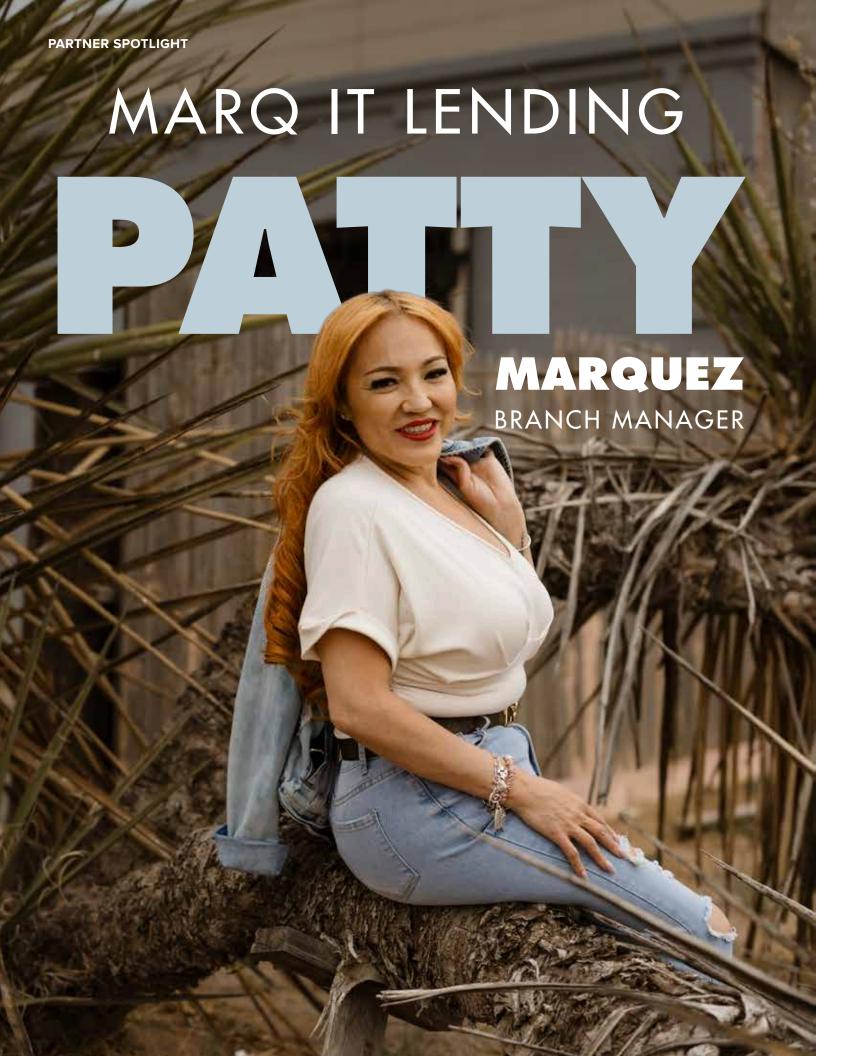
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Connecting Your Dreams

BY BETH MCCABE • PHOTOS BY THE STONES PHOTO + FILM

"MY NETWORK IS MY NET WORTH."PATTY MARQUEZ

Meet a proud Odessa native and seasoned mortgage professional who's been making homeownership dreams a reality for over two decades. Born and raised in West Texas, her roots in Odessa/Midland run deep. Not forgetting her roots, but embracing them, she acts as the Branch Manager of Marq It Lending, a division of Flanagan State Bank. Patty doesn't just finance homes—she builds futures.

Her career began in 2004, not in lending, but behind the scenes doing accounting for a mortgage brokerage firm that operated nationwide. While going to school for her finance degree, Patty was introduced to the world of lenders and quickly realized where her true passion lay. "I haven't been able to find anything else with the freedom that I get in this industry," she says.

Fast forward to today—Patty has built a boutique-style lending company rooted in relationships, results, and yes, her name. Marq It Lending, a clever play on "market" and her last name, is a family-run operation where the people closest to her are also her most trusted teammates. Her niece, Daniela Marquez, has been by her side for nine years. Her son, Noah Valenzuela, for seven years, and "I love working with my family," she shares. "I used to have a large group, but now I've gone back to the basics. I love it."

Patty specializes in out-of-the-box mortgage lending—offering creative, customized solutions when other lenders might say no. With 20 years of experience, she excels in structuring complex deals such as new construction builds with two-time closings or



bank partnerships. Her deep local connections and expertise in working with both secondary markets, such as Freddie Mac, and local banks have helped countless clients achieve their financing goals.

"I do it all—residential, commercial, construction, renovation, FHA, conventional, bank statement loans, and ITIN loans. And the best part? I can lend in all 50 states, which sets me apart from most local lenders."



What drives her each day? "Funding retirement," Patty laughs. "That's what gets me up and moving. That, and spending time with my grandkids."

In recent years, Patty has found a healthier work-life balance. Gone are the 70 to 80-hour workweeks of her prime. Now, she enjoys time at the gym, playing pickleball, traveling, and most importantly, being with her four children and even more grandchildren. "I love the freedom to make my own hours and my own rules—within the law, of course. I really am autonomous, and I love that."

Behind every successful mortgage professional is a strong team, and Patty is quick to credit hers. "This is one of the best underwriting teams I've had in 21 years," she says. It's never been easier to close loans since the shift to Marq It Lending last year.

She's also embraced the digital age. "Things have changed so much over the years," Patty reflects. Marketing used to mean taking rate sheets to real estate agents. Now, it's all digital—content creation, staying relevant online. As her clients' needs change, Patty has changed to accommodate them.

And if she could give one piece of advice? "Use local lenders. There are a lot of options and qualified people right here. With online lenders, you may never meet your rep, or worse, you can't even get a hold of them. In our market, you need someone who knows the landscape. Relationships matter."

From deep Odessa roots to nationwide reach, Patty Marquez is more than a mortgage lender—she's a dream maker, a connector, and a force to be reckoned with.

CONTACT US!

Contact Patty Marquez pmarquez@fsbfamily.com (432) 352-7679 ConnectingYourDreams.com

Jacobe Kendrick

Bolt Real Estate Group | eXp Realty

It's hard to believe it's been over 3 years since we featured Jacobe on our cover in April 2022! We loved spotlighting his journey and the impact he's made in the real estate world. Now, we're excited to catch up and see what's new—both professionally and personally.

Q:What's changed for you personally or professionally since your cover feature?

A: To be honest, not much has changed on the sales side of my business. But what has shifted significantly is my focus—I've leaned heavily into mentoring and coaching other agents. The past two to three years have been some of the toughest for real estate professionals since the 1990s. Transactions are down, and many agents aren't getting the support they need. I felt called to step up, so now I dedicate a significant portion of my time to helping other agents navigate today's market and build sustainable success.

Q: Have there been any standout moments or milestones in your real estate career since your feature?

A: Absolutely. Last year, I had the opportunity to list and sell one of the largest homes of my career, and I also represented a buyer in my biggest purchase to date. Those were exciting moments that reminded me how far I've come—and how much more there is to achieve.

Q: What lessons have you learned since then that you wish you knew earlier in your career?

A: I've learned that the doors that open for you today are a direct result of the preparation and groundwork you've done in the past. There's a bigger purpose behind every challenge and opportunity. I now believe that you can't fake growth—who you are becoming determines what you're ready to handle.

Q: How has the real estate market in your area evolved since your last interview? Have you had to pivot your strategy?

A: The Midland/Odessa market has slowed down considerably over the past few years. In response, I've gone all-in on relationships—I've doubled down on my sphere of influence and the people who already know, like, and trust me. I've drastically reduced my Google Ads and cold marketing budget



and implemented a strategy I call "Incognito Distressed Sellers" to quietly help those who need to sell without going public. It's all about being strategic and intentional.

Q: Are there any new passions or projects you've taken on outside of real estate?

A: Yes! One of my newest passions is coaching football. We just got football approved at my kids' school, and I'll be helping launch the program. Our inaugural tackle season kicks off in fall 2025, and I couldn't be more excited to mentor young men and help build something from the ground up.

Q: What's next for you? Any big goals or projects coming soon?

A: Nothing flashy—just staying consistent, staying faithful, and continuing to serve at a high level. Whether it's helping clients buy and sell or coaching the next generation of agents and athletes, I'm more focused than ever on impact and legacy.

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Allison Allison

Jeannie Cooley Real Estate Group, LLC

HEALING, HUSTLE & HOMEOWNERSHIP

BY BETH MCCABE • PHOTOS BY THE STONES PHOTO + FILM

"It's never too late to be what you might have been."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Life is full of fresh starts—and Amy Allison is living proof. For her, Ralph Waldo Emerson's words are more than just a quote—they're a way of life. At 53, Amy didn't just switch careers; she embraced a brand-new chapter with heart, hustle, and unwavering faith.

Before stepping into the world of real estate, Amy carved out a successful 12-year corporate career where she built a strong business foundation, sharpened her sales acumen, and developed the kind of professionalism that now sets her apart in real estate. Her corporate background—combined with her deep people skills from 23 years as a massage therapist—makes Amy uniquely equipped to serve clients with both savvy and soul.

After a hand injury ended her massage therapy career, Amy chose to view the challenge as a divine detour.

"I got my license in December 2023 and started on January 6, 2024. I only wish I had done it sooner," she says with a smile. From Massage Tables to Market Listings
Amy's leap into real estate had been a long time
coming—encouraged over the years by her former
massage client turned dear friend, Jeannie Cooley,
founder of the Jeannie Cooley Real Estate Group, LLC.

"Jeannie used to be a client of mine. I watched her flourish as a REALTOR® and she kept telling me, 'You need to do this." When her injury closed one door, Amy decided it was finally time to open another.

After completing her coursework at Champions School of Real Estate—and squeezing in a mission trip to Brazil—Amy reached out to Jeannie for advice on brokerages. Jeannie's response was life-changing.

"She prayed on it and came back saying, 'I want to mentor you. I'm starting a team and I want you to be part of it.' That meant everything."

Today, Amy is a powerhouse on Jeannie's growing team of six under broker Lance Marker. And she's not just making waves—she's making headlines. In her first year alone, she's already closed over \$3.4 million





Helping people achieve their dream of homeownership, especially in today's market, is such a gift. So many think it's out of reach."



in sales. She currently holds several listings, including a \$1.2 million property—proof positive that she's not only helping first-time homebuyers but confidently handling the high-end market as well.

A Business Mind with a Big Heart

Amy's success is no accident—it's the product of grit, grace, and a grounded sense of purpose. Her business-savvy side shines in negotiations and market knowledge, while her heart for service continues to guide every client interaction.

"Helping people achieve their dream of homeownership, especially in today's market, is such a gift. So many think it's out of reach," she explains. "I love working with first-time homebuyers, but I'm also passionate about helping clients with investment properties and luxury homes. Every home, and every client, matters."

Amy's approach is refreshingly personal and deeply faith-driven. "I pray over every house and every client. I keep God at the forefront of everything I do."

Her spiritual roots run deep. She sings on the praise and worship team at her church and volunteers regularly, carrying her servant's heart into every aspect of her life.

Meet the Herd

Away from contracts and closings, Amy's world is full of life—literally. She shares her home with an evergrowing menagerie that includes two horses, mini donkeys, Nigerian dwarf goats, chickens (including one named Hennifer Lopez), nine dogs, a cat, and a bird named Poppy. She's also nursed an injured hummingbird back to health and rehabbed a baby squirrel named Button.

She's creative too, carving intricate art into gourds with a dental tool and filling them with resin to create stunning pieces. "My art is kind of my secret world," she says. "That and my love for hunting and fishing."

Rooted in Resilience

Born and raised in Andrews, Texas, Amy has weathered her fair share of life's storms—from losing her father to cancer at 14, surviving domestic abuse, and raising three kids as a single mom. Her humor, faith, and resilience have helped her rise again and again.

"My kids are my greatest accomplishment. Parenting is hard, but you have to laugh through it. Puberty is no joke," she laughs. "But they're amazing."



Now remarried to her "wonderful" husband Kent, Amy is living a life full of second chances, big dreams, and even bigger blessings.

Real Advice from a Real Producer Amy's message to aspiring REALTORS® is clear: "Keep God at the forefront. Pray for your clients, their homes, and their families. That's what I do."

She also leans on the wise words of her mentor Jeannie:

"Things work out. They always do."

With a heart for healing, a hustle that doesn't quit, and a fierce belief that life is always offering second chances, Amy Allison is redefining success—one sale, one prayer, and one porch light at a time.



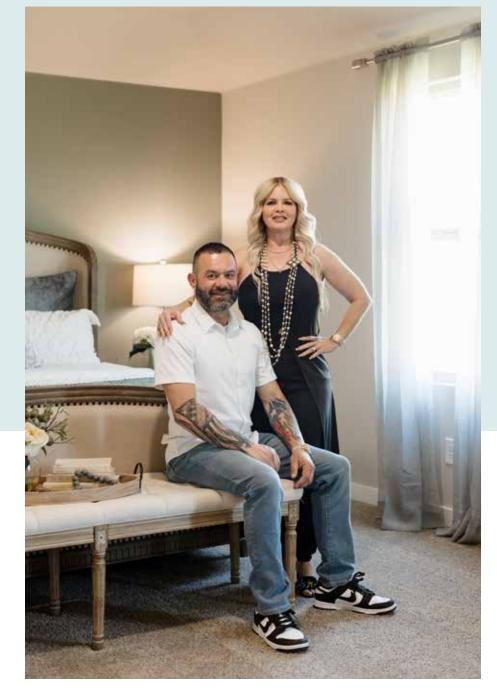
STACIE
Starz Realty

BY JACKI DONALDSON
PHOTOS BY THE STONES PHOTO + FILM

When Stacie Russell's husband, Randy, nudged her toward a new career 16 years ago, his push was more than encouragement—it was a turning point. At the time, Stacie was a pro at working hard and adapting to new industries. She had already built a diverse professional background in insurance sales, automotive finance, and banking. Despite the stability those roles offered, something inside her was calling for more—a challenge, a change, a chance to build something of her own.

"I had seen my mom work in real estate, and I was always intrigued by it—the development, the investment side, the entire process," Stacie recalls. "I knew if I was going to do it, I needed to immerse myself completely and understand all of it." With Randy holding down the fort in the car business, Stacie stepped into real estate. She reasoned that if it didn't work out, she could always go back to the bank.

Real estate did work out. By the end of her first year, Stacie had earned the title of multimillion-dollar producer and





started collecting the plaques that now cover her office wall. Randy earned his license and joined his wife at the end of that same year. Together, they've built a business and a legacy. They own Starz Realty, a brokerage they started to reflect their vision for authentic, informed, and community-focused service. Their son, Colton, is one of their top-producing agents on a tight-knit Odessa/Granbury team of nine, and they've also expanded to include a property management arm and a brokerage in Granbury, TX.

Stacie and Randy work together as partners, serving their separate clienteles, with Randy focusing heavily on the investment side. "He is an integral part of everything," says Stacie, who isn't one to dabble in her endeavors and considers real estate a lifestyle. "It's always been more than a full-time job," she shares. "It's never been a gig. It's been 16 years of 60-hour weeks." And she doesn't just sell homes—she builds and buys them, develops land, handles investments, and manages rentals. "We've built a large, diverse rental portfolio," she explains.

Never afraid to roll up her sleeves, Stacie will take on anything. "I consider anything I haven't done before a challenge and don't shy away," she asserts. Her brains and boots-on-theground grit set her apart. "I can do residential in my sleep and commercial almost in my sleep," she laughs, adding that no deal is too small or too big. "I enjoy selling a \$1.5 million piece of land and, at the same time, helping a \$100,000 first-time homebuyer."

Stacie doesn't gatekeep her real estate smarts—she shares them. Regarding purchasing rentals, she declares, "I started with one house, and if I can do it, anyone can. If you're keeping yourself up at night about how to buy the first rental, call me and I'll help educate you about the good and the bad. Managing properties is not all roses—thorns come with these roses, and sometimes, the thorn is large and the rose dies." While educating others, Stacie also learns. "I'm a sponge, absorbing all the knowledge," she reveals.



When they're not working, the Russell family—including three grown sons (Colton, Cade, and Caleb) and eight grandkids under 10—gathers for fun and food. "Between our house and Colton's house, we'll spend the summer grilling and hanging out by the pool," Stacie describes. And when she envisions a perfect year, she sees family, work, a few trips to their Granbury lake house, a couple of Vegas vacations, and one cruise.

The road Stacie and Randy have traveled hasn't always been smooth—but it's been undeniably worth every twist, challenge, and leap of faith. Their journey proves that you can turn uncertainty into success with vision, persistence, and the right partner by your side. Sometimes, one bold move—or one encouraging push—is all you need to create the life you were meant to live.



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