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Dog Grooming Business featured at 1 Million Cups; Anna's Groom Room experiences Overnight Success

The owner of a dog grooming business in Williston was one of the presenters at 1 Million Cups Williston on Wednesday, Aug. 1. Anna Denton shared how she started Anna's Groom Room and was surprised by its overnight success.

Denton, who previously worked as a professional photographer, said she sought a new career after a life changing experience.

"I had a brief encounter with death and it was an eye opener for me and dogs are great therapy and that's why I took this route," she said.

One Million Cups meets the first Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Teton Lounge on the Williston State College campus. The meetings feature two presenters who discuss their startups followed by Q and A sessions.

"One Million Cups is all about the entrepreneurial spirit," said Williston Economic Development executive director Shawn Wenko. "We are seeing a lot of that spirit lately as activity has increased and opportunity is abundant in Williston."

To date our STAR Fund has assisted over 27 projects with entrepreneurs like the speakers today. Those projects have contributed to nearly 8 Million in new business development for the community. Denton utilized the City of Williston STAR Fund program and Small Business Development Center services to get her business started. Once she opened the doors to Anna's Groom Room, she was overwhelmed with customers and some difficult decision.

"I started just with me, and within one week I hired another, and the next week I hired another, and yeah, it grew that fast. I outgrew the building I was in within two months and I thought this was going to be a really small business," Denton said.

Denton said one of the biggest challenges was finding a larger space for the Groom Room so soon. Once she successfully relocated to a larger space, she was determined to continue expanding. Currently she has six employees but she is planning to bring on a veterinarian, doggy daycare, a larger retail section and a self-wash station for customers to learn how to bath their pets with the right products.

Denton's is just one of many success stories in the Williston area. Wenko said the STAR Fund has helped nearly 30 business projects in 2018.

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The next 1 Million Cups meeting will be held Sept. 5 at 8:30 a.m. at Williston State College.