



DR. CHRISTINA CHAN, a board-certified small animal internist, is the newest faculty member to join the **TEXAS A&M SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES' (VMBS) VETERINARY EDUCATION, RESEARCH, & OUTREACH (VERO) PROGRAM** on the **WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

campus. Chan will serve as a small animal clinical educator and will contribute to VERO's mixed animal approach to graduating veterinarians equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to serve all animals in rural communities. After graduating from veterinary school at the University of Tennessee in 2011, Chan completed a small animal medicine and surgery internship at the University of Illinois, followed by a small animal internal medicine residency at Michigan State University. In 2015, Chan joined a private practice outside Orlando, Florida. "The curriculum we build here at Texas A&M tries to integrate everything in a practical sense. When you finish the four years of school, it's not just a bunch of knowledge you've never used before or have only known in an academic setting," she said. "I hope to give them a really solid foundation that they will build upon throughout the rest of their careers."

The **BSA NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU) TRANSPORT TEAM** is excited to announce the expansion of its life-saving capabilities with the addition of a new Apollo MedFlight Bell 407 helicopter. Since 2018, Apollo MedFlight has partnered with BSA to provide fixed-wing air medical transport for babies born prematurely across the region who require specialized care" explains Apollo Chief Commercial Officer **BRANDON LEASURE**. "With the addition of the Bell 407 rotor-wing, we now have two aircraft available for neonatal transport, both equipped like an ICU/CCU with advanced medical technology you would find in a hospital." The new specialized Bell 407 rotor-wing aircraft gives the BSA NICU team more flexibility in time-critical situations allowing for hospital-to-hospital transport. "The addition of rotor transport is a significant enhancement, expanding the diversity and capabilities of the BSA NICU Transport Team," says BSA Neonatal Transport Medical Director **KELLY CLEMENTS, M.D.** "Helicopter transport enables us to expedite response times to nearby hospitals, while fixed-wing airplane transport allows us to continue to serve facilities that are situated at greater distances."



JOHNSON & SHELDON, PLLC announced the addition of their newest Equity Partner, **ALICIA PICKENS**. Alicia has been with the firm since 2010 and has over 18 years of public accounting experience. She has experience providing both accounting and tax services to clients in a variety of industries including non-profit and religious organizations, online and on-site retail stores, healthcare, construction, and real estate. In 2020 Alicia stepped up to lead the firm's Accounting Outsourcing and Client Advisory Services group on a full-time basis



NORTHWEST TEXAS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM (NWTHS), a 495-bed facility with over 2,000 employees serving the top 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle and neighboring states welcomed **ANNIE MENDOZA, RN, MSN, FACHE** as the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO). Annie is an accomplished healthcare executive with more than 25 years of experience, most recently serving as CNO and formerly Chief Quality Officer at Mountainview Regional Medical Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Mendoza received her Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio along with her Master of Science in Nursing.

SKYRITE SIGN CO., a Davidson Teal Company, is a dynamic full-service sign company with branch locations in Amarillo and Lubbock. The company announced its recent triumph as the recipient of the esteemed **FRANK PAGE AWARD**, recognizing the company for the most innovative and creative sign in the entire state of Texas. The Frank Page Award, a symbol of excellence in the signage industry, acknowledges SkyRite's outstanding commitment to pushing the boundaries of creativity and setting new standards in the design and execution of signage. **AARON KUBITSCHKEK, COO** of SkyRite Sign Co. said, "This prestigious accolade reinforces our position as a leader in the industry and inspires us to continue delivering cutting-edge solutions for our clients." SkyRite Sign Co. distinguishes itself by offering a comprehensive suite of sign design, installation, and repair services. The company's expertise spans both electric and non-electric signage, including pole signs, building signs, channel letters, flat cut-out letters/signs, LED conversion upgrades, and wayfinding & directional signage. Notably, SkyRite is renowned for its specialization in neon sign services, vintage and historical sign restoration, and a commitment to preserving the character of classic signage. Local co-owners are **CHAN DAVIDSON** and **JODI DAVIDSON TEAL**.

The TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD (THECB) recently announced the GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (GME) EXPANSION PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS for 2024-2025. The TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER (TTUHSC) AMARILLO CAMPUS was one of more than 30 residency training sites in the state to receive this critical funding. In total, the TTUHSC Amarillo campus was awarded \$1.8 million. "The training of physicians is a costly undertaking, and this expense has traditionally been covered by the federal government," TTUHSC School of Medicine Interim Regional Dean **BRIAN WEIS**, said. "However, as the demand for physicians, and thus, physician training programs, grows, the expense of training has increasingly fallen on state and local resources such as hospitals or academic medical centers. The generous grants from the THECB will permit TTUHSC to continue to support its training programs with the consideration of expanding residency slots." The funding will go to support current and expanded residency slots in family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics. The award also includes funding to support a potential new general surgery residency program on the Amarillo campus. If approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), a surgical residency program could begin in Amarillo by 2025. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the projected job growth of physicians and surgeons nationwide from 2020 to 2030 is slower than average at 3%. However, demand for physicians is projected to increase due to the aging and growing population. "As TTUHSC works to grow the health care workforce in the Panhandle, we are committed to establishing a surgical residency program at TTUHSC in the coming years," **IZI OBOKHARE, M.D.**, TTUHSC School of Medicine associate professor and surgical residency program director, said. "Training residents in the Panhandle will provide additional medical support at area hospitals while they're getting their surgical training. Subsequently, the goal is to retain these physicians to practice in the area after completing their residencies or fellowships." According to the American Association of Medical Colleges, 66.1% of individuals who completed residency training in Texas stayed in the state to practice medicine after finishing their training.

TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS, a leading managed technology services provider (MTSP), announced they've launched an exclusive cyber insurance program with techrug to make coverage smoother, faster, and more complete for small to mid-sized businesses (SMBs). As insurance claims have increased in frequency in recent years, so too have tricky contracts and ambiguous wording in many popular cyber insurance policies. The unfortunate result is that there have

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been numerous "gotcha clauses" where clients who thought they were covered, were not covered due to technicalities. As an authority in the IT space, Technical Solutions has put a stop to this nonsense with its innovative new "dual claim coverage" - whereby both the technology provider and client are covered directly by techrug if a breach occurs. **GENE WELL** is President of Technical Solutions, a locally owned and operated business technology provider.



TODD BAUGHMAN, PH.D., will return to Texas to serve as director of the **TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER**, at Lubbock beginning April 1. Baughman served as a professor and Texas A&M Agrilife Extension crop production specialist and statewide peanut specialist for 15 years, from 1996 to 2011, in the Rolling Plains before joining Oklahoma State University as a professor and weed scientist. At Oklahoma State, he was responsible for research and extension activities involving weed management in summer crops and pastures for the state of Oklahoma. Baughman, a native of Cache, Oklahoma, earned his doctorate in weed science from Mississippi State University, and his master's and bachelor's degrees in agronomy from Oklahoma State University. He is currently president of the Southern Weed Science Society, a member of the Weed Science Society of America and an American Peanut Research and Education Society Fellow.



HilltopSecurities announced that **PATRICK LOVELADY** has joined its Amarillo office as Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor. In his role at Hilltop, Patrick will continue to provide financial advice and solutions customized for clients' individual needs. A native of Amarillo, Patrick has more than 16 years of wealth management experience in the area. He previously served as a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch from 2007 to 2010 and as a financial advisor at Edward Jones from 2010 to 2024. Patrick received his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University in 2007. Currently, Patrick serves on the Amarillo College Foundation Board of Directors and the Eldon Durrett Scholarship Committee. *AW*