

# BUZZ

April 2024

**WILLIAM WARE**, President of **AMARILLO NATIONAL BANK** announced an ANB gift of \$1 Million to open a donor advised fund at the Amarillo Area Foundation specifically to aid victims of the devastating Panhandle wildfires. In addition, ANB will be accepting public donations at any of the ANB branches into a benefit account going towards the Panhandle Disaster Relief Fund, also at the Amarillo Area Foundation. "These fires have devastated our community. We wanted to help those who lost their homes or businesses," says William Ware, President of ANB. The family-owned bank is known for giving millions every year to local charities. Family ownership is key to ANB's ability to react quickly during emergency situations like these wildfires.

The **AMARILLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (AEDC)** hosted the annual **STATE OF THE ECONOMY BREAKFAST** recently. Many business leaders, elected officials, community partners and citizens gathered to hear about AEDC's projects and impact over the past year as well as the organization's focus for the coming year. **MAYOR COLE STANLEY** opened the program with a welcome and invocation. Chairman of the Board, **ANDREW HALL**, recognized past and present AEDC board members with special recognition of outgoing board member, **LLOYD BROWN**. He discussed the national attention Amarillo and AEDC is receiving for its growing economy. In 2023, the city and AEDC were recognized and awarded the following: Top 100 Best Places to Live in the U.S. by Livability, Top 20 Cities for Economic Development by Site Selection Magazine, Deal of the Year in Agri-Tech and Top Ranked Location by Business Facilities, Corporate Investment and Community Impact Award by Trade & Industry Development, and the Community Economic Development Award as well as Economic Excellence Recognition for professionalism by the Texas Economic Development Council. President & CEO, **KEVIN CARTER**, gave an update on recently announced projects and provided a 10-year economic impact report. He recognized AEDC staff for their hard work and dedication, spotlighting **DOUG NELSON** and **HOLLIE SHANKLE** for their individual achievements. **CAYLAR HARPER**, Director of Marketing & Workforce Initiatives, announced AEDC's new marketing initiative, **ReRoot**, which is focused on recruiting families and young professionals back to the Amarillo area. The keynote speaker was **AARON DEMERSON**, President & CEO of Texas Economic Development Corporation. He highlighted the success of the Texas economy which has grown \$2.4 trillion and is the eighth largest economy in the world. Texas has led the nation for population growth for 18 years in a row, growing by nearly 1,300 people per day in 2023. There are currently 14,594,903 Texans working which is more than any point in Texas history. Mr. Demerson congratulated Amarillo on the 2.5% unemployment rate coming in lower than the state's 4%.



**INTERSTATE BANK** announced the promotion of **PAM CHISUM** to Market President in Perryton. Pam embodies servant leadership. In 2022, Pam was honored as Perryton Citizen of the Year, reflecting her outstanding leadership and involvement in various community organizations throughout her career. She has

served as the Director of the Perryton Rodeo Association and Co-chairman of the Wheatheart Celebration Council, as well as serving as a member of the Panhandle Professional Women and Community Worship Center. **DANNY SKARDA**, is the bank's Chairman & CEO.

**WT** officials announced today that the One West comprehensive fundraising campaign has received a \$2.5 million gift from Amarillo philanthropists **LAURA AND JOE STREET**.



The gift will name the **LAURA AND JOE STREET SCHOOL OF NURSING**, which will be elevated from a department and stay within WT's College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The Laura and Joe Street School of Nursing has a tradition of excellence at WT and currently is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The school provides about 70 percent of nurses in the Texas Panhandle, and its graduates' passing rates on the National Council Licensure Examination averages 97 percent over the past five years.



The board of directors of **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES (FSS)** announced the selection of **KIRK DANIELS** as the organization's chief executive officer. Daniels most recently served as development director at the Don Harrington Discovery Center. Founded in 1908, FSS serves more than 25,000 area residents each

year through counseling services, advocacy services and a safe shelter for victims of family violence, sexual assault and human trafficking; education and prevention services; and veterans' services through the only peer-run drop-in Veterans Resource Center operating in the Texas Panhandle.

**FIRST NATIONAL BANK IN SPEARMAN**, Texas, and **BANK OF THE PANHANDLE IN GUYMON**, Oklahoma, announced their intent to merge and become "**PANHANDLE FIRST BANK**." The two banks have frequently partnered over the past 39 years to serve their communities, and have determined that the communities will be better served by combining the two institutions into one. They intend to complete the merger during the second quarter of 2024, pending regulatory and shareholder approval. **SALLY PITTMAN HAWKINS** is Panhandle First Bank CEO & President.

**JOHN C. DETOLEDO, M.D.**, has been named the **TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER (TTUHSC) SCHOOL OF MEDICINE** dean and executive vice president for clinical affairs, the university announced. DeToledo, the TTUHSC Vernon & Elizabeth Haggerton Chair of Neurology, has served as the founding chair for the Department of Neurology since 2009 and currently is the interim School of Medicine dean.

John C. DeToledo, M.D.



DeToledo succeeds Steven L. Berk, M.D., who led the School of Medicine as dean from 2006 to 2023. As dean and executive vice president, DeToledo will serve as the chief academic and administrative officer of the TTUHSC School of Medicine and oversee Texas Tech Physicians, the medical practice

of the TTUHSC School of Medicine that operates primary- and specialty-care clinics in Amarillo, Lubbock and Permian Basin communities. He will lead faculty and staff in strategic planning, securing resources, and implementing and evaluating activities related to the academic, research, service and patient care operations. DeToledo received his medical degree from the University of São Paulo Medical School, Brazil. He completed his medical internship at Columbia University; his neurology training at Boston University and the Boston City Hospital; and his fellowship in epilepsy and neurophysiology at the Oregon Comprehensive Epilepsy Program, later serving as the Cornelia Wheeler Division Chief of Epilepsy. DeToledo's past professional experiences include serving as chief of the Division of Epilepsy and Neurophysiology and as the neurology residency program director at George Washington University; co-director of the International Center for Epilepsy at the University of Miami; chief of Epilepsy and Neurophysiology and chief of the Magnetoencephalography Laboratory at Wake Forest University. DeToledo's research focuses on pharmacology and treatments for epilepsy. He is the author of numerous publications and has been a visiting professor and lecturer nationally and internationally in the field of epilepsy and the pharmacology of new antiepileptic drugs.

**BROWN & FORTUNATO, P.C.** announced new shareholders and new senior attorneys in the firm. Newly promoted attorneys are the following: **MICHAEL ALEXANDER** who practices in the firm's Health Care Group, was promoted to Shareholder in 2023. Michael is based in Amarillo and is licensed in both Texas and Minnesota. He represents health care clients in a variety of business and regulatory matters, including regulatory compliance, licensing, due diligence review in the acquisition of health care providers, government investigations, and commercial disputes. Michael's clients are primarily pharmacies, hospitals, and physician groups. **COLLEEN BYROM** has been promoted to Senior Attorney in the Health Care Group. Colleen is based in Dallas and represents hospitals, pharmacies, DME suppliers, home health agencies, and hospice providers in a wide variety of healthcare regulatory matters. Colleen advises clients on state licensing standards; program enrollment, reimbursement and administrative appeal matters; Medicare Conditions of Participation; Medicare and Medicaid coverage requirements; the federal Anti-Kickback Statute, Stark law, and HIPAA. **JOHN HINDERS** has been promoted to Shareholder in the Corporate Group, where he assists clients with the sale and acquisition of business entities, with a particular focus on healthcare providers. John's practice, based in Amarillo, also includes corporate finance and a wide range of business matters. **JONATHAN STERLING** has been promoted to Shareholder in the Corporate Group. Based in Dallas, Jon's transactional practice includes many types of corporate transactions in the energy, entertainment, financial services, logistics, real estate, and technology industries, with an emphasis on transactions in the healthcare industry. In addition

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to his corporate and transactional offerings, Jon serves as the principal advisor on numerous business matters, including contract review, corporate governance, corporate structuring, acquisitions, sales, equity buyouts, and dispute resolution planning. **JASON TEMPLE** has been promoted to Shareholder in the Corporate Group. He is licensed in both Texas and Oklahoma and is based in Tulsa. Jason advises public and private clients on a broad spectrum of business matters. Jason is skilled in matters related to entity formation, corporate governance, financing, reorganization and restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, business transactions, contract drafting and negotiation, taxation, and business succession.

**BROWN & FORTUNATO** also announced two new attorneys in the firm. **BRADLEY S. BYARS** joined the firm as a Senior Attorney in the Health Care Group. Brad's health law experience spans more than a decade and includes roles as in-house corporate counsel, chief compliance officer, and Senior Associate General Counsel. Brad's practice focuses on regulatory compliance, complex healthcare transactions, clinical trials, payer reimbursement strategy, Accountable Care Organizations, Medicare Managed Care Organizations, and operation issues for healthcare organizations. He is well-versed in negotiating high-stakes agreements, managing disputes, and offering strategic counsel to healthcare organizations. Currently, Brad is licensed in Missouri and Florida and is based in the Ft. Myers area. **MELINDA R. NEWMAN** joined the firm as a Senior Attorney in the Labor and Employment Group where she represents clients in employment counseling and litigation matters. Melinda's background in private law practice and most recently as a federal government attorney, give her extensive expertise in representing managers in administrative and arbitration matters. She is also experienced in advising

management on employee accommodation requests, internal investigations and discrimination complaints, and employee leave and disciplinary matters. Melinda is based in the Dallas area. **BROWN & FORTUNATO** announced the relocation of its Dallas office to a convenient location near I-75 and Walnut Hill at 7557 Rambler Road.



**SHELDON SNYDER, ALC**, with **CLIFT LAND BROKERS** has been recognized as the **APEX 2023 REGION 8 (OK, TX) BROKER OF THE YEAR IN AG LAND CROP SALES BY THE REALTORS® LAND INSTITUTE** as a part of the RLI APEX Production Awards Program, sponsored by The Land Report. Snyder has decades of experience in agricultural real estate and is one of the five owners of Clift Land Brokers since January of 2023. Additionally, Snyder secured a position in the Top 20 National Producers by volume, a feat that requires over \$64 million produced to qualify.

Gifts from a **WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY** history professor and his recently retired wife will provide significant scholarship support for students in history and the arts.

**DR. BRUCE BRASINGTON**, WT's Twanna Caddell Powell Professor of History, and **DARLENE BRASINGTON**,



former academic documentation coordinator for the Paul and Virginia Engler College of Business, have given \$25,000 to establish the Brasington Family Scholarship Endowment for History and have set up a \$500,000 bequest through the I Am WT - Leaving a Legacy program. Half of the Brasingtons' bequest is earmarked for the Department of History in WT's Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts. Fifty percent will be used for scholarships, prioritizing non-education history majors, particularly first-generation students. Remaining funds will support faculty development, including travel, conference expenses, access to scholarly databases and more. The other half will be set aside for both WT's School of Music and the Department of Art, Theatre and Dance.. Each area will receive significant scholarship funding, with preference given to first-generation students; remaining funds will be used for production expenses and faculty development.



A **WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY** graduate student won a \$1,000 scholarship in a first-of-its-kind competition at the University. **TAYLOR LINDLEY**, a graduate student in music from Pampa, was named the winner of the first

**ERIC BARRY VOCAL COMPETITION**, named for a WT alum and opera performer. Barry graduated from WT in 2004 after studying both music and business. He earned a master's degree and an artist diploma from Yale University, and in his professional career, he has performed with many of the top opera houses and symphonies in the world. He and his wife, Judge Ana Estevez, established the competition through a \$25,000 endowment of an opera scholarship.

In an effort to support and aid the Texas Panhandle during this difficult time, the **EDUCATION CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION** is collecting donations for wildfire relief efforts. These donations will benefit the **STINNETT FIRE DEPARTMENT, BORGER FIRE DEPARTMENT, FRITCH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT** and the **HUTCHINSON COUNTY UNITED WAY**. ECU Foundation Board President and ECU CEO/President, **MARCUS SMITH** said: "The devastation of these wildfires has had such a significant impact on our neighbors, members, and team members. The donations that we are collecting will go straight back to those communities affected to rebuild." To donate, visit the ECU Foundation website: [www.ecu-foundation.org/give-now/](http://www.ecu-foundation.org/give-now/) and select "2024 Wildfire Relief Efforts" from the "My Donation is for" drop-down menu. *AW*

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