BUZZ

November 2026

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY has received a $9.75 million grant from the **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**—the largest federal award in University history—to fund what promises to be the most advanced cattle feedlot research facility in the world. The USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture awarded the grant for a center for beef cattle research and innovation through its Research Facilities Act Program. A required dollar-for-dollar match—with $4.875 million from The Texas A&M University System and another $4.875 million from other sources—brings the project total to $19.5 million. The facility will bridge the gap in national research infrastructure by pairing 90 small research pens for scientific studies with 45 commercial-scale pens. Undergraduate, graduate and veterinary students will be able to train and research at the facility with leading faculty in the field, producing the next generation of feedlot employees, managers and owners. Plans call for the research feedlot to include a precision beef cattle handling facility, a veterinary care and research hospital, an advanced technology feed and production center, and a metabolism and physiology center. New feeding, health and handling techniques can be evaluated with traditional and artificial intelligence-powered approaches that are designed to increase beef production efficiency and advance feedlot management practices. Planning for the new facility has been ongoing for several years, culminating in a 2024 land legacy gift of 42.84 acres adjacent to WT's **NANCE RANCH** by brothers and Canyon ranchers **MIKE AND GARY KUHLMAN**, as well as the congressional funding for the education center. The Engler Foundation gave $2 million to the project, and Champion Feeders gave an additional $1 million to the effort. The Nance Ranch, located about seven miles east of Canyon, consists of 2,393 acres including the headquarters. Given to WT in 1971, it is used as a working laboratory for WT's animal science program as well as the Semi-Arid Agricultural Systems Institute and the plant and soil science program, providing numerous research and teaching opportunities for faculty and students.

FIRSTBANK SOUTHWEST was recently recognized by the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) with its Community Spirit Award for Bank Culture, honoring the bank's **FAITH. FAMILY. BANK. FUND.** The fund was created following the Perryton tornado in 2023, when employees and community members came together to provide financial assistance to those affected by the disaster. What began as a community relief effort evolved into an employee-funded assistance program that continues to support FirstBank Southwest team members facing unexpected hardships.



Andy Marshall, Denise Marshall, Will Miller, Matt Mathias

The Best of Community Banking Awards recognize Texas community banks for their commitment to the people and communities they serve.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER (TTUHSC), in collaboration with **TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY,** has received a $24.5 million five-year grant, the largest National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant in the Texas Tech University System's history. The funding is provided through an NIH U54 cooperative agreement, a prestigious institutional center grant designed to support large-scale, multidisciplinary research programs. TTUHSC will use the funding to build research capacity, mentorship and professional development while strengthening community engagement in its 121-county service area, with a focus on medically underserved populations. **LANCE R. MCMAHON, PH.D.**, TTUHSC executive vice president for research and innovation; **JULIE ST. JOHN, PH.D., DRPH,** professor in the TTUHSC School of Health Professions; and **NAIMA MOUSTAID-MOUSSA, PH.D.,** executive director of the Institute for One Health Innovation, are the principal investigators for the grant. The grant will build on TTUHSC's foundation in basic and translational research while expanding clinical engagement and implementation science. A central component will be engaging communities from the outset to identify health priorities, develop solutions and put sustainable health improvements into practice. McMahon said this NIH award represents a significant milestone for TTUHSC, after decades of building its research, education and clinical capabilities. "TTUHSC has a long and successful track record of applying cutting-edge laboratory inquiry to identify basic mechanisms of disease and new treatments," McMahon said. "While this U54 grant continues to strengthen fundamental discovery at TTUHSC, there is an equally strong focus on promoting the translation of



Julie St. John, Ph.D, DRPH, Lance McMahon, Ph.D, Naima Moustaid-Moussa, Ph.D

laboratory findings into real- world settings. This approach will combine population health data analyses, implementation science, health services research and community-based participatory research to directly address local needs. It is one thing to create a new treatment in a research lab. It's an entirely different matter to effectively deliver that treatment into a community, especially rural communities." **LORI RICE-SPEARMAN, PH.D.,** TTUHSC president, said the award will strengthen the university's ability to address health challenges across its vast service area. **BRANDON CREIGHTON, J.D.** is Texas Tech University System chancellor.

A **TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER** and **UMC HEALTH SYSTEM** cancer initiative presents cancer treatment options through new technology. Lubbock is one of only two cities in the state with this new technology, which eradicates certain cancers without surgery. The Edison System device, made by HistoSonics, uses high- frequency ultrasound to create bubbles within a live tumor, destroying diseased tissue without an incision. "This platform, being here in Lubbock and at TTUHSC and UMC, provides our patients an opportunity to receive treatment here at home," said **TYLER MOUW , M.D.,** chief of surgical oncology for Texas Tech Physicians. "If you were to look at a map of other institutions that had a histotripsy platform, the nearest one would either be in, I believe Austin, Texas or Phoenix, Arizona." The device was funded by Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's (TTUHSC) **RURAL CANCER COLLABORATIVE,** which was established in 2025 to improve access to cancer care and treatment for patients west of Texas' Interstate 35 and in Eastern New Mexico. As of now, the Edison System is only approved to treat liver cancer. HistoSonics officials are currently seeking approval from the Food and Drug Administration to use the technology to treat kidney, prostate and other tumors – possibly as soon as 2027. The Histotripsy procedure takes about two hours from preparation to completion, though the treatment itself only takes about 15 minutes. Some patients are even able to return home the same day, and there are usually few side effects. "(The Edison System) allows us to be much more precise in determining how much normal liver is impacted," Mouw continued. Using the system for a histotripsy also decreases the need for chemotherapy and reduces the risk of impacting nearby blood vessels.

THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY

cmms

CMMS CPAs & Advisors PLLC

TAX
AUDIT
ACCOUNTING
ADVISORY
PLANNING
and MORE!

801 S. Fillmore, Ste 600 Amarillo, TX 79101
806.373.6661 | **atlasfirms.com**

AN ATLAS NAVIGATORS, LLC FIRM • ADVISORS THAT LISTEN AND SERVE



BROWN & FORTUNATO announced that **LISA WONG** has joined the firm's healthcare group, bringing more than 25 years of experience advising healthcare organizations, national corporations, and growth-focused companies on complex legal, regulatory, and compliance matters. Her practice focuses on healthcare regulatory compliance, reimbursement, Medicare and Medicaid issues, operational risk management, provider enrollment, accreditation, licensure, and healthcare transactions. Throughout her career, she has guided organizations through mergers and acquisitions, helping clients navigate both legal and operational integration challenges. Lisa is based in Utah and is currently licensed in Virginia and Utah. She earned her J.D. from American University Washington College of Law and her B.A., cum laude, from the University of Puget Sound.



In additional news from **BROWN & FORTUNATO, BRADLEY W. HOWARD** has been named a **2026 TEXAS SUPER LAWYER** by Thomson Reuters for his practice in Employment and Labor Law. The Super Lawyers selection process recognizes outstanding attorneys through peer nominations, independent research, and professional achievement, with only five percent of nominated lawyers in each state receiving the honor. Brad has been selected to the Super Lawyers list continuously, beginning in 2019. In addition, Brad has been selected to serve on the Texas Bar Foundation Fellows Nominating Committee. Members are responsible for identifying and nominating distinguished attorneys for fellowship in the Texas Bar Foundation, an honor extended to only a select group of lawyers who have demonstrated excellence in the profession and a commitment to their communities. Selection is limited to one-third of one percent of State Bar of Texas members. Brad has been an active Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation since 2020 and is currently a Life Fellow serving as a regional representative for District 13. Brad is a shareholder in the firm and has more than 30 years of experience serving as lead litigation counsel and advisor for national employers and healthcare companies. He advises businesses on employment, healthcare, and litigation matters. His practice includes labor and employment and complex litigation in multiple jurisdictions, as well as representing clients in government investigations.

Texas is awarding **$51 MILLION TO RURAL HOSPITAL DISTRICTS AND AUTHORITIES** in the first round of its new **RURAL TEXAS STRONG** grant program. The federal funding will support community-based prevention, wellness and nutrition programs in rural communities. The grants are part of a much larger investment in rural healthcare, with Texas expected to receive approximately $1.4 billion in federal funding over five years. *AW*