

**GATEWAY TO SUCCESS - AMARILLO**, is a non-profit group made up of Amarilloans in Dallas and Amarillo. It seeks to improve the ability of individuals in Dallas and Amarillo, who are seeking change in order to support themselves, to achieve goals of self-sufficiency. Their positive programs make a difference in the life of families in the areas in which they serve. Each year they promote individuals who seek to change their community in a positive manner. This year the group chose **JOSEPH B. PETERSON JR.** of Amarillo as their **BLACK MAN OF THE YEAR**. **STEPHANIE GOINS**, also of Amarillo was chosen as the group's **BLACK WOMAN OF THE YEAR**. Peterson is a certified Financial Advisor with Edward Jones Associates, a family man, and he serves on many boards in the city. Goins is the Annual Giving Officer with the Amarillo Area Foundation. Stephanie and her husband, William, raised their three children in Amarillo and have resided in the community for over 27 years. She has served as a volunteer with many civic and social organizations.



Joseph B. Peterson, Jr.

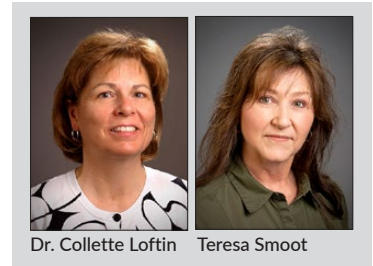
Stephanie Goins

**BANK OF AMERICA** announced **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES (FSS)** as the Amarillo 2023 **NEIGHBORHOOD CHAMPION® AWARDEE** for its work to empower individuals and families through education, advocacy and intervention services in Amarillo. Through the program, Family Support Services will receive the opportunity to participate in virtual leadership training delivered by experts in the nonprofit sector on topics like human capital management, increasing financial sustainability and storytelling, as well as a \$50,000 grant over two years. The Neighborhood Champion award provides multi-year funding and nonprofit leadership training that will allow Family Support Services to expand its services to support victims of sexual assault, family violence, and human trafficking; at-risk children, families, and individuals; people in need of individual, group, marital, and family counseling; and veterans, family members of veterans, and surviving spouses. Family Support Services was originally founded in 1908 by a group of Amarillo businessmen, to support suffering men, women, and children who lacked access to resources for assistance or healing. Today, FSS serves over 25,000 people each year. **JIM WOMACK**, is CEO of Family Support Services.



**AMARILLO DENTAL GROUP OF AMARILLO** has added **LEON FOREMAN JR., DDS** to their practice at 2401 Commerce. Houston, he received his undergraduate degree focusing on pre-med at Prairie View A&M, and then attended the University of Texas Health Science Center for his degree in Dentistry.

Eleven nurses educated at **WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**—including current **WT DEPARTMENT OF NURSING** faculty members—were honored among the **PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES FOR 2023**. The list was chosen by a committee in collaboration with Texas Nurses Association District 2 and the Panhandle Organization of Nurse Executives. Criteria include leadership qualities, service to the community, compassionate caregiving and significant contributions to the profession of nursing. Faculty members on the Panhandle Great 25 list are **DR. COLLETTE LOFTIN**, the interim head of WT's Department of Nursing and the Kritser Professor of Nursing, and **TERESA SMOOT**, instructor of nursing. Loftin earned her bachelor's of science in nursing from WT in 1989 and her master's in nursing education from WT in 2006 and joined the nursing faculty in January 2007. She teaches classes in foundations and medication administration.



Dr. Collette Loftin

Teresa Smoot

Smoot earned her bachelor's of science in nursing from WT in 1989, a master of science in nursing education from South University in 2008 and a post-master's certificate as a family nurse practitioner from Bradley University in 2017. She teaches nursing courses for the graduate family nurse practitioner program. Nine other WT alumni also made this year's Great 25 Nurses list: **KATI ALLEY**, who earned her MSN in 2013 and works at Hereford Regional Medical Center; **SONJA CLARK**, who earned her BSN in 1995 and her MSN in nursing in 2000 and is now Amarillo site leader at Bell's Amarillo Assembly and Delivery Center; **SAHALA GAILLARD**, who earned her BSN in 2000 and works for Gruver Independent School District; **DENISE GOULDY**, who earned her MSN in 2008 and works at Northwest Texas Healthcare System; **ANGELA LOOTEN**, who earned her BSN in 1978 and works at BSA Health System; **COLLEEN ROBISON**, who earned her BSN in 1981 and works at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt; **KENDRA SMITH**, who earned her BSN in 2009 and works at BSA Health System; **GARY TABOR**, who earned his BSN in 2007 and works at BSA Health System; and **KRISTEN YODER**, who earned her BSN in 2009 and works at Randall High School. Also recognized on this year's list are **SONIA SANTOS**, **CASSANDRA GOOD**, **TIFFANY LEIGH BATEMAN**, **MADISON BYERSMITH**, **CINDY ELLIS**, **ELLEN NELSON**, **LORI RABE**, **ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ**, **JANET HILLERS**, **JENNIFER SABBE**,

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BRENDA LEE WILLIAMS, SOURI THEPHAPHINE, SUZETTE MEEKER and MARLA HINSLEY. Panhandle Great 25 Nurses also will give \$2,000 scholarships to seven students, including three WT students: EMILY FAITH LANCE, an Amarillo native pursuing a second bachelor's degree in nursing; CITLALI BOTELLO, a senior nursing major from Dumas; and HALEY JONES, a graduate student from Perryton.

FIRSTBANK SOUTHWEST participates in the UNITED WAY'S WORKPLACE GIVING program. When an FBSW employee donates via payroll deduction at the "Fair Share" level, which is 1 hour of pay per month, they receive an Earned Time Off day. For 2024, 42% of FBSW Amarillo employees pledged funds to United Way of Amarillo & Canyon, and have raised a total of



\$34,355.60, exceeding the goal of \$30,000. This is an annual increase of \$7,929.69 from 2023. As a result, FirstBank Southwest President and CEO, ANDY MARSHALL, generously agreed to take pies in the face - all for a good cause. At the event, "PIE THE CEO," attendees had the opportunity to bid on the chance to pie Mr. Marshall directly in the face. The two top bidders got the honor of delivering the pies. In addition, three others who won the raffle also got to deliver pies. Together with the "Pie the CEO" event, FBSW raised \$37,000 which directly benefited the United Way of Amarillo and Canyon.

GENERAL OFFICE SUPPLY, INC. celebrated 75 years of business last month. General Office Supply has served the office supply and furniture needs of Amarillo and surrounding communities with quality products and unmatched service for 74 years. DAPHNE COX is President.

The XIT MUSEUM in Dalhart recently celebrated the grand opening of their newly renovated, comfortable and inviting lobby, designed by CARTER DESIGN with construction by TREY FRANTZ. Located downtown in the old courthouse, the museum's exhibits are thoughtfully curated, showcasing the area's rich cultural heritage, pioneer life and the legacy of the XIT Ranch.

Big news from WTAMU'S INTERNATIONALLY SUCCESSFUL MEAT JUDGING TEAM: Not only did they take home their first national championship in about a decade, but they did so in record-breaking fashion. Their winning

score at the recent AMERICAN ROYAL MEAT JUDGING contest was the highest in WT history and ties the highest score ever received in the history of meat judging. This is a huge deal for the University and shows the significant progress made by the team in recent seasons.

Not to be outdone, for the first time ever, the WTAMU RANCH HORSE TEAM won the title of 2023 STOCK HORSE OF TEXAS D1 COLLEGIATE WORLD CHAMPION TEAM. DR LANCE BAKER is coach of the team, and Professor of Animal Science and a member of the Equine Industry Program at WTAMU.

BUC-EE'S, the world's most-loved travel center, recently held a ground-breaking for their Amarillo store at 9900 East I-40, near Airport Road. Known for its thousands of snack, meal and drink options, as well as its award-winning restrooms, cheap gas, quality products and excellent service, Buc-ee's has won the hearts, trust and business of millions in the South for over 40 years. *AW!*

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