



AMARILLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION President and CEO **KEVIN CARTER** reported that **PRODUCER OWNED BEEF** is doing several million dollars in dirt work on their facility and expects to begin pouring concrete soon. Carter also reported that **ALBERS AEROSPACE** is officially up and

running in Amarillo and **AUSTIN HOSE** is wrapping up construction of their new \$15 million facility in the South Georgia Business Park. **PLANT AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS**, the group's latest project, is expected to result in more than \$500 million in capital investment and employ over 700 people. Carter also noted that Amazon is expanding their presence in Amarillo. They are building a new "final mile" facility but will not seek any additional incentives for it. And Carter noted the AEDC has sold 254 acres to **INTERNATIONAL PAPER** for just over \$6 million for a future project.

In further news from the AEDC, **KEVIN CARTER**, President & CEO, has been honored with the prestigious title of one of **NORTH AMERICA'S TOP 50 ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS OF 2023** by Consultant Connect. This recognition is a testament to his outstanding contributions to economic development and leadership, as well as his commitment to fostering growth and prosperity within the community. Under his dynamic leadership, Amarillo has experienced unprecedented growth and success over the last three years. He has been a driving force behind initiatives that have not only enhanced the economic landscape of Amarillo but have also created a positive image for the region on a national scale.



HEAL THE CITY FREE CLINIC announced the addition of **LIZ M. RASCÓN-ALANIZ, ED.D.**, as its new Executive Director. She has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Amarillo Wesley Community Center for the past ten years and will begin her new role this month. Dr. Rascón-Alaniz earned her B.S. and M.Ed.

at Angelo State University and received her Doctor of Education in 2021 at West Texas A&M University. She has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Amarillo Wesley Community Center for the past ten years.

Recently, the **EDUCATION CREDIT UNION** and the **ECU BUFF \$SMART PROGRAM** celebrated the graduation of 110 WT students from the Money Management Bootcamp, a six-week intensive offering students invaluable financial advice. On top of that, 44 students earned almost \$11,000 in scholarships for having successfully completed the bootcamp and other requirements.

The **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS** has approved the construction of a \$30 million project that will move facilities of the **TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER** at Amarillo onto the campus of West Texas A&M University.



As the newest faculty member at the **TEXAS A&M SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES' (VMBS) VETERINARY EDUCATION, RESEARCH, & OUTREACH (VERO)** campus in the Texas Panhandle, **DR. MICHAEL KLEINHENZ** hopes to continue blending his passion for

veterinary medicine with pharmacology, another passion he discovered along the way, to continue improving the health of dairy cattle throughout the industry. Kleinhenz, has his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Ohio State University. "I did my undergraduate in dairy sciences and worked with dairy production when I was in private practice. I even did a residency in dairy production," he said. "So, I'm really interested in anything that has to do with dairy cow health and increasing production." After several years in private practice, Kleinhenz went back to school for another residency, motivated by his new passion for pharmacology. As part of the residency, he completed a Ph.D. in pharmacology at Kansas State University, where he joined the faculty.



NORTHWEST TEXAS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM's new Chief Operating Officer is **OLIVER OSTORGA**. He has had an outstanding background in healthcare leadership since 2013. His expertise spans key service lines including cardiology, orthopedics, oncology, general surgery, and ancillary patient care services.

In additional news from **NORTHWEST TEXAS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM (NWTHS)**, a Groundbreaking event took place recently for the new emergency department location at 4299 NW 4th Ave. **NORTHWEST EMERGENCY AT TASCOSA**, a Service of NWTTH, it will be a 11,570 sq ft building on a 5-acre lot. The new location will have nine treatment areas, imaging equipment, laboratory and will be available for outpatient testing. The project is expected to take 12-14 months with an anticipated opening in January of 2025. Northwest Emergency at Town Square serves over 20,000 patients and Northwest Emergency on Georgia serves over 25,000 patients annually. Both locations have Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditations by the American College of Emergency Physicians.



In further news, **NORTHWEST TEXAS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM** announced the selection of **CHRIS VEAL, RN, MSN, CEN**, as Chief Executive Officer for the **NWTHS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOSPITAL**. After attaining his nursing degree from West Texas A&M University, Chris became the

Assistant Director for the Emergency Center at the University Medical Center in Lubbock. He later moved back to Amarillo

to serve as the Director of Nursing for a local Freestanding Emergency Center. In 2019, Veal began his career at NWTHS as the Emergency Department Manager, was promoted to the Director of Med/Surg, and then transitioned to the Director of the Emergency Department. NWTHS Behavioral Health Hospital is an 85-bed hospital that has taken care of patients with mental illnesses since 1967. The hospital serves patients from the area surrounding Amarillo, including the surrounding states of Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado. The Behavioral Health hospital offers services to children, adolescents, adults, seniors, and uniformed service members.



NWTH Respiratory therapist **MISSY MITCHELL, RRT**, is the **2023 PHIL AWARD RECIPIENT** from the **FACES Foundation**. The PHIL Award acknowledges her outstanding service and underscores the crucial role respiratory therapists play in healthcare. FACES' mission is to acknowledge and promote professional excellence in the education and care of patients with life-threatening pulmonary illnesses.



TONYA TYLER, a longtime **XCEL ENERGY** employee in Amarillo, has been named manager for Corporate Economic Development in the company's Texas-New Mexico service area, a new position that will enhance the company's support for regional economic development efforts. Tyler started with Xcel Energy's predecessor company, Southwestern Public Service Company, in 1995 as a drive-up cashier with the company's customer service group. In ensuing years, she gained extensive experience in all aspects of serving customers with later positions in Billing, Customer Service, Personal Accounts and Residential and Commercial Credit. For the last 16 years Tyler has worked as an account representative in the Texas-New Mexico Business Customer Relations group, managing relationships with some of the company's largest customers. In her account management role she managed approximately 170 commercial and industrial customers in Texas and New Mexico with a total annual revenue of \$68 million.



GABRIELA PITA, DDS has joined the **DENTAL GROUP OF AMARILLO** serving the Hillside and Canyon offices. Originally from Ecuador, Gabriela moved to Houston when she was 14 years old. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Houston, and her Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the University of Texas School of Dentistry in Houston. Dr. Pita is fluent in both English and Spanish.

The **U.S. SENATE** confirmed **JUDGE IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ'S** appointment to the **5th U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS** recently, making her the first Latina judge on the conservative-leaning court. Ramirez attended West Texas A&M University

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before getting her law degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 1991. President Joe Biden nominated Ramirez to the New Orleans-based court in April. Texas Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz both supported her nomination, giving her a clear path to confirmation.

The former **RON CLARK FORD AND ALL-STAR FAMILY FORD DEALERSHIP**, south of Amarillo on I-27 now has a new life. **RON HOOVER** who started an RV company in Rock Port, Texas in 1987 has expanded that business to 18 locations across the state of Texas. Now he is continuing that expansion with the renovation of the former car dealership location. Besides Class A RVs, Ron Hoover will carry all the fun from Pop-ups to Toy Haulers, an amazing place for all RV and Marine needs.



Recently, **JUDGE MATT HAND** was appointed to the **TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH** by joint order of the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Commissioners meet to establish policy initiatives, information and promote best practices to improve the function of

the judiciary for those with mental health, substance abuse and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Judge Hand has served Potter County since 2018 as the judge of Potter County Court at Law #2. In addition to his other responsibilities, he is a juvenile court judge and in conjunction with the 47th District Attorney's Office established and presides over the Panhandle Regional Problem Solving Court (Mental Health Court).

575 PIZZA on Civic Circle, doing business since 2006, has been closed since last May when a fire in a nearby business caused both businesses to shut down. However, after the remodeling phase is completed, the company is looking forward to having an official re-opening date towards the first of 2024.

HODGETOWN, home to the **AMARILLO SOD POODLES**, is set to get around \$4.5 million in upgrades ahead of the 2024 season, with no additional cost to Amarillo taxpayers. The upgrades were mandated by the MLB. The 2024 season at Hodgetown will feature some changes for fans and players. Several upgrades to the stadium in Downtown Amarillo are underway. *AW*