

BUZZ

September 22

A downtown Amarillo landmark since 1926, **THE HERRING HOTEL**, vacant for many years, will be historically renovated and restored over a three-year period and once again provide a vibrant hospitality space. **BLUEPRINT HOSPITALITY and SANDVICK ARCHITECTS**, in conjunction with the city of Amarillo, will revive the 14-story Art Deco building to feature a fully-renovated collection of 250 guest rooms, and amenities – including a rooftop lounge, business facilities, event ballrooms, and restaurants, coffee shop and retail options, blending historical architectural design with new technology.

FirstBANK SOUTHWEST recently announced the promotion of **WILL MILLER** as Executive Vice President, President of Commercial and Corporate Banking. Will has worked for FBSW for 27 years and has been the Amarillo Market President and Chief Lending Officer for the past 8 years. In his new position, he will supervise the Market Presidents in each of the FBSW markets.



Riney



Mayfield

The attorneys with **RINEY & MAYFIELD, LLP**, an Amarillo law firm focused on civil trials and appellate cases, have joined the **UNDERWOOD LAW FIRM, P.C.** Partner **TOM RINEY** said, "We are excited to join excellent lawyers and good friends in a firm that allows us to better serve our clients." Partners at Riney-Mayfield include **TOM RINEY, MITZI MAYFIELD, HEATH HENDRICKS** and **ALEX YARBROUGH**. Underwood President **GAVIN GADBERRY** noted that **TOM RINEY** and **MITZI MAYFIELD** –



Hendricks



Yarbrough



Gadberry

along with Underwood shareholder **KELLY UTSINGER** – each holds the prestigious recognition as Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers, which counts among its members less than 1% of the state's lawyer population. The Underwood Law Firm celebrates its 110th anniversary this year. In addition to Amarillo, office locations are in Fort Worth, Lubbock and Pampa.

The **AMARILLO CITY COUNCIL** approved new Amarillo Economic Development Corporation proposals. One for the Amarillo-based **AUSTIN HOSE** would bring up to 30 new jobs to Amarillo and would have an almost \$70 million economic impact over the next twenty years. The second agreement was with **UNMANNED SYSTEMS, INC.**, which is doing business as **ALBERS AEROSPACE**. If Albers chooses Amarillo as the location, it would result in some 400 jobs with an average annual salary of \$100,000 and an estimated economic impact of over \$1.65 billion over the next twenty years. **AEDC** President and CEO **KEVIN CARTER** noted "...that's a huge economic impact to our area over a twenty-year period." Albers Aerospace provides qualified and experienced Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) aircrew and test personnel. Since 2003, they have served as the United States Air Force's primary contractor for developmental and operational testing of the MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper systems. The UAS team provides training on operations, regulations, best practices, and risk management to clients. Additionally, Albers Aero has designed, built, and certified their own small UAS for flight training, research and development, and market survey tasks. Their expertise: Unmanned (UAS) Training, Operations and Maintenance (MQ-9)

PRODUCER OWNED BEEF has launched, with the state of Texas awarding \$12.232 million from the Texas Enterprise Fund to support the creation of the new state-of-the-art beef processing facility in Amarillo. The company's majority equity owners are cattle ranchers

and feeders, making it unique in the beef processing industry. The AEDC and the City of Amarillo approved incentives of up to \$11.1 million to establish the company here. Located on 1,108 acres on Jack Rabbit Road (Spur 228) between I-40 and Hwy 287, the \$670 million facility will employ 1,600 people at full capacity, processing 3,000-plus head of cattle per day. Senior management team includes **CASEY CAMERON, CEO, MONTE CLUCK, CASSIE FISH, DEAN HANISH, CFO, GENE LEMAN, DAN MERCER**, with Consultants **JAMES P. HICKS, KURT SUTHER**, and **ROSS WILSON**. High-quality beef products sourced primarily from the High Plains region are expected to be available to consumers in 2025.

REGION 16 announced its elementary and secondary Teachers of the Year for 2022. **TIFFANY RYALS** was named the **ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR**. Ryals is an Amarillo AISD 3rd grade language arts teacher at **HUMPHREY'S HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY**. The **SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR** is **TRICIA SHAY**, who teaches English 1 at **BORGER HIGH SCHOOL**.

Recently there was a groundbreaking for the **COMMONS AT ST. ANTHONY'S** senior apartment complex. **CROSSROADS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** will renovate the historic 120-year-old St. Anthony's Hospital, at Amarillo Boulevard and Polk Street, into 124 affordable studio, one, and two-bedroom rental apartment homes.



The **TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY** System Board of Regents approved the appointments of **TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER** (TTUHSC) faculty **SHERRY SANCIBRIAN** and **THOMAS HALE, PH.D., R.PH.**, as **GROVER E. MURRAY PROFESSORS**. Grover E. Murray

Professors are faculty members who have attained national and international distinction in their fields for outstanding research, excellence in scholarship and creative achievement. "Professors Sancibrian and Hale deserve this prestigious appointment solely



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based on their qualifications," TTUHSC President **LORI RICE-SPEARMAN** said. "However, their contributions both on a personal and professional level make them outstanding experts in their fields. Countless children and their families have benefited from their innovative approach to clinical care. As faculty members, they have greatly impacted their students and colleagues through academic and clinical expertise, leadership, mentorship and relationships. They are among our innovators and collaborators for transforming health care." Sancibrian, a professor in **THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**, Has been a faculty member with the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences since 1984. She is associate chair for the department and program director for the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology. She also is the associate dean for academic affairs for the School of Health Professions. In addition to being a Board-Certified Specialist in Child Language, she is a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist. Hale, a professor of pediatrics and executive director of **THE INFANTRISK CENTER**, joined the TTUHSC School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics in 1981. He is an accomplished researcher with more than \$2.7 million in research grant support. These grants have led to more than 50 publications, along with more than 40 abstracts and case reports, five published books and more than 30 chapters written for various books and textbooks in the United States and abroad. He has amassed numerous awards from TTUHSC, as well as outside entities, and is considered one of the foremost experts in the field of perinatal pharmacology and the use of medications by pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. His expertise led to the creation of two smart device applications, developed by the InfantRisk Center. MommyMeds® provides fast, convenient access to up-to-date and evidence-based information about prescription and over

| Continued on page 8

the counter medications and their safety to pregnant and new mothers. The InfantRisk HCP®, which was written for clinicians, provides access to evidence-based information about medications and their safety during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Hale is an accomplished author and recently published the 20th edition of his book, "Medications and Mothers' Milk," with Springer Publishing of New York. This book is sold worldwide in four languages, and has sold over 1.5 million copies to date.

GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT has appointed Amarillo resident **VERLENE DICKSON** to **THE ONESTAR NATIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**. The commission serves as the State's liaison to the Corporation for National and Community Service. Dickson is the Director of the **VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER**, a division of **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES**.



CLARK S. WILLINGHAM has been named the **2022 NATIONAL GOLDEN SPUR AWARD** recipient in recognition of his dedication to the ranching and livestock industries.

JIM BRET CAMPBELL, executive director of the **NATIONAL RANCHING HERITAGE CENTER** at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, said, "It is the most prestigious honor given to one person by the ranching and livestock industries." Willingham will be honored during the National Golden Spur Award dinner at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15 at the Overton Hotel in Lubbock. He is the 44th recipient of the award, which was established in 1978 and is jointly sponsored by the American Quarter Horse Association, National Cattlemen's Foundation, Ranching Heritage Association, Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Texas Farm Bureau, and Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. While Willingham did not grow up in agriculture, his decades of volunteer service demonstrate his dedication to the cattle industry. Under the guidance of his late father-in-law, H.C. "Ladd" Hitch, whose family homesteaded the Hitch Ranch in the Oklahoma Panhandle in 1884, Willingham became active in leadership roles for various

industry associations. A native Texan born in Houston and raised in Dallas, Willingham graduated from Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in accounting and received his J.D. and master's degree in tax law from Southern Methodist University where he met his wife, Jane Hitch.

Married for more than 50 years, Clark and Jane continue to live in Dallas. Willingham is a member of the American Law Institute and continues practicing law in the areas of agriculture, income tax and estate planning with the firm Howell & Willingham PLLC.



BSA HEALTH SYSTEM has named **JEROME BROOKS** as the new chief operating officer (COO), effective July 25, 2022. He replaces Michael Cruz who was recently named BSA's chief executive officer. Jerome has more than 15 years in healthcare management and most recently

served as the vice president of business development for HCA Rio Grande Regional Hospital in McAllen, Texas. While at Rio Grande Regional, he was responsible for leading the strategic growth of the facility, including physician partnerships, service line development and network integration.

EDUCATION CREDIT UNION

(ECU) announced the departure of President and CEO, **ERIC JENKINS**, citing a new opportunity that will allow him to return to his home state of Georgia.

"We are fortunate to have a tight-knit organization and leadership

team, which has allowed the Credit Union to grow over \$104 million in assets under Eric Jenkins' direction," said Chairperson of the Board, **DANIEL COWARD**. The ECU Board has appointed **MARCUS SMITH** as interim CEO, and Smith will step in when Jenkins departs. Smith has served as CFO of ECU since 2014.



In further news from the company, **EDUCATION CREDIT UNION (ECU)** and **H&H FEDERAL CREDIT UNION** announced that their Boards of Directors have

unanimously voted to approve a partnership that will combine two great credit unions into an even stronger financial institution focused on creating significant value for consumers in the panhandle of Texas. The combined institution will have more than 34,000 members and 10 branch locations in Amarillo, Canyon, Bushland, Borger & Stinnett. **MARCUS SMITH** is ECU's Interim CEO and H&H FCU's CEO is **TINA HUNTER**. H&H Federal Credit Union was founded to serve persons who live, work, worship, or attend school in, Carson, Hansford, Hutchinson, and Moore Counties, and includes branches in Borger and Stinnett.

BROWN & FORTUNATO

announced **JOHN BYROM** has joined the firm's Corporate Group as a senior associate. John returns to B&F bringing almost eight years of oil and gas experience and will be available to assist clients with any oil and gas related litigation,



transactions, or title work. In addition to energy, John advises clients in many industries, including healthcare and real estate. John graduated cum laude from Texas Christian University with a BBA in Accounting and a minor in Energy Technology and Management. John received his JD from Texas Tech University School of Law, cum laude, and also earned his MBA from Texas Tech as part of a dual degree program.

PANHANDLE BREAST HEALTH (PBH) announced the **POSITIVELY PINK BREAST CANCER SCREENING INITIATIVE**. The goal of this program is to decrease the number of breast cancer deaths by increasing the up-to-date mammography rate in a 9-county service area. Amarillo Area Foundation's Louise Bowers Slentz Advise and Consult Fund is underwriting the 1-year pilot program which focuses on residents in **CARSON, DONLEY, GRAY, HEMPHILL, ROBERTS, WHEELER, ARMSTRONG, COLLINGSWORTH, AND HUTCHINSON COUNTIES**.

PBH will provide no-cost mammograms to uninsured women aged 40 and over, who have not had a mammogram in the last 12 months and whose household income is not more than 400 percent of the poverty rate; and a limited number of genetic tests for uninsured

breast cancer patients. PBH will continue to educate people on cancer screening guidelines and provide breast cancer survivor support. All nine counties in the service area fall below the statewide average of 74.9 percent of Texas women aged 50-74 who have had a mammogram within the past two years. This is lower than the United States overall, which was 78.8 percent. The aim of mammography screening is to detect breast cancer as early as possible, primarily to reduce the number of breast cancer deaths but also to reduce the severity of the disease. Panhandle Breast Health will continue to provide no-cost mammograms to other area residents through funding from the **RYAN PALMER FOUNDATION**. PBH contracts with BSA Harrington Breast Center for mammography services. PBH is a nonprofit organization serving the top 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle. Staff and volunteers are available for health fairs and other events as well as presenters for civic organizations. For more information, contact Judy Neill, executive director, at 806-331-4710 or by email at judy@panhandlebreasthealth.org.

KIND HOUSE UKRAINE BAKERY is a nonprofit that serves orphans and people in the war zones of Ukraine. Using the donations raised through baked goods, they deliver coal to people's homes and provide medicine and groceries (see Accent West story, January 2022). Now that the war has intensified, they work to take people from east Ukraine, out of harm's way, to mid- to western Ukraine. KindHouseBakery.org started in a home at 2100 SW 60th. In October they will open a commercial bakery, **KHUB**, at 4715 S. Western. All baked goods are purchased by donation only.

Season Four of "**CHECK ME OUT: A PODCAST FOR BOOK LOVERS**" premiered recently. A collaboration between **AMARILLO COLLEGE'S FM90, AMARILLO PUBLIC LIBRARY AND PANHANDLE PBS**, the series celebrates books and reading with eight new podcast episodes with guests from the Texas Panhandle. The podcast is available on iTunes, Soundcloud, Spotify and other podcast apps and podcatchers. Full episodes are also available at panhandlePBS.org/CheckMeOut and kacvfm.org/podcasts. *AW*