

BUZZ

December 2025



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE has earned full accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education, becoming one of only 31 accredited veterinary schools in the U.S. This milestone recognizes

years of dedication by faculty, staff and students, and confirms the school's mission to serve rural and regional communities with accessible, high-quality veterinary education. **GUY LONERAGAN** is Dean of the TTU School of Veterinary Medicine. The school was established in 2018 with a singular purpose to serve the veterinary educational and service needs of rural and regional communities and provide access to affordable, high-quality education. In August 2021, the school opened its door to welcome the inaugural class. In May 2025, the school graduated its first class with 97% passing the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination. Texas Tech University President is **LAWRENCE SCHOVANEC**.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER is proud to announce the promotion of **MEAGHAN COLLIER** to Senior Director of Community Engagement and Donor Communications. In this expanded role, Meaghan will continue to lead

community engagement efforts in Amarillo while strengthening donor communications across all campuses. Her creativity, leadership and dedication make her an invaluable asset to the university's institutional advancement team.



ENCOMPASS HEALTH and **BSA HEALTH SYSTEM** have opened **REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF AMARILLO** at 7950 Wallace Blvd. The freestanding inpatient rehabilitation hospital will provide essential services that help patients recovering from strokes, brain injuries,

spinal cord injuries, amputations and complex orthopedic conditions regain function and independence. Patients will receive a minimum of three hours of intensive therapy five days each week, frequent physician visits and 24-hour nursing care. **TAMMIE TABOR** is Chief Executive

Officer, Rehabilitation Hospital of Amarillo. "The BSA Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital of Amarillo reflects BSA's commitment to providing high quality care for our community," said **MICHAEL A. CRUZ**, president and chief executive officer of BSA Health System. "Through this joint venture, we are more than doubling our region's capacity for inpatient rehabilitation and providing patients a dedicated destination for care close to home." The more than 54,000-square-foot hospital will employ 108 full-time employees within the first year of opening and 150 full-time employees by the fifth year. Designed with patients' needs in mind, the hospital will offer amenities such as 50 private patient rooms, a spacious therapy gym featuring advanced rehabilitation technologies, an activities of daily living suite, an in-house dialysis suite, therapy courtyard, dining room, in-house pharmacy and dayroom areas.

AMARILLO FAMILY PHYSICIANS recently celebrated the grand opening of their new facility at 7561 Outlook Drive, just west of their former location off Coulter. The two story, 32,955 square-foot building provides offices for 12 physicians, includes 49 exam rooms, xray room & support space. An urgent care is developed on the west end.

Ground was broken recently on the West Texas A&M University Foundation's innovative, \$15 million research feedlot complex. The **WTAMU FOUNDATION RESEARCH FEEDLOT** and the **PAUL F. AND VIRGINIA J. ENGLER FOUNDATION FEEDLOT EDUCATION FACILITY** will provide a state-of-the-art education for WT students, directly benefitting beef producers around the Panhandle, the state and the world. Support for the multimillion-dollar facility comes from a combination of individual donors and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The **ENGLER FOUNDATION** gave \$2 million to the project, and **CHAMPION FEEDERS** gave an additional \$1 million to the effort. Construction is expected to begin in the winter on the education center and later in 2026 on the feedlot. Because the USDA grant required that the recipient of the grant own the education facility, the WTAMU Foundation will own the building and feedlot, both of which will be managed and operated by the University itself. The combined facilities, which will be constructed southwest of the existing WT feedlot near Nance Ranch east of Canyon, is expected to include an educational center with a classroom and small auditorium; 90 10-head pens; 40 70-head pens; state-of-the-art technology for monitoring and feed manufacture and delivery; and a top-of-the-line animal-processing facility and feed mill.

In additional news from **WTAMU**, the **WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY DINING HALL** is on track to reopen soon following a \$3 million upgrade. The Caf, as it's commonly known, boasts a completely redesigned layout with upgraded equipment, as well as an expanded menu

offering personalized options at six entrée stations. **MICHAEL IVES** is WT's Aramark food service director. Plans are in the works for a grand reopening celebration in the spring 2026 semester. A new food lab and teaching kitchen allows chefs to offer culinary demonstrations for students, with rotating food concepts each semester, beginning with "Road Trip of America," which showcases regional dishes. The teaching kitchen also will offer an expanded late-night menu. Phase III of the cafeteria project is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2026 and will include renovations to the upstairs dining space, the addition of an elevator and updates to the main entrance. By the completion of the final phase, more than \$6 million will have been invested in improvements and renovations for The Caf since 2024.

New **PADEL** courts have opened at the **AMARILLO NATIONAL TENNIS CENTER**. Padel is one of the fastest-growing sports in the world, and Amarillo is proud to be on the cutting edge of bringing it to our community:

Two architectural projects in **CENTER CITY** are finalists for the 2025 **PRESIDENT'S AWARDS PROGRAM** sponsored by **TEXAS DOWNTOWN**. The finalists were announced in Austin. For more than 30 years, the awards program has recognized outstanding projects, places, and people of downtowns across the state. Center City of Amarillo nominated two downtown projects to compete for the honors. "The new **AMARILLO CITY HALL** in the historic Amarillo Hardware Building is a finalist for the **BEST RESTORATION AWARD**. The new **POTTER COUNTY JUSTICE BUILDING** is a finalist for **BEST NEW CONSTRUCTION**," said **BETH DUKE**, Center City Executive Director. Winners will be announced at the Texas Downtown Association Conference in Waco. As finalists, the Amarillo City Hall and the new Potter County Justice Building are eligible for the People's Choice award.

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