

# BUZZ

May 2025



**PANTEX** recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new **PANTEX AMARILLO CAMPUS** located in the Happy State Bank building downtown Amarillo. **KELLY BEIERSCHMITT**, Pantex president and general manager, said

"We are proud to be here, and we look forward to the positive impact this facility will have on our operations and the continued success of our mission." The new location, provides office space for more than 400 Pantexans.



**FIRSTBANK SOUTHWEST (FBSW)** announced the promotion of **CHRIS JENSEN** to Executive Vice President, General Counsel, following the retirement of David M. Jones. Since joining FBSW as Associate General Counsel, Chris has played an integral

role in providing legal guidance and strengthening the bank's corporate governance. With nearly 30 years of legal experience, Chris brings extensive knowledge in commercial and construction law, real property and natural resources. Prior to joining FBSW, he was a member of Sprouse Shrader Smith PLLC, where he had previously served as president and where he represented financial institutions, utilities, and oil and gas enterprises. His leadership and expertise have earned him recognition as a Texas Super Lawyer for 11 consecutive years and a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. Chris holds a Juris Doctor from Texas Tech University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Southern Methodist University.



The retiring superintendent of Amarillo Independent School District is being honored by the establishment of a professorship and an endowed scholarship at WTAMU in his name. **DOUG LOOMIS**, who earned his master's in education from WT,

announced in October that he would retire effective June 30. Loomis has provided almost four decades of teaching and administrative leadership in Amarillo ISD. His service to district students, families, and teachers as superintendent is to be commended. Doug will be honored at WT through the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences with both a scholarship and

professorship focusing on preparing the next generation of schoolteachers and administrators. The professorship, established with funds from an anonymous donor, creates a \$125,000 endowment to be assigned to a faculty member at a later date. The scholarship will be established with a \$25,000 endowment principal. Contributions to the scholarship are welcomed. Loomis has spent more than four decades in the Amarillo Independent School District, making an impact across the district and working in schools in every quadrant and at every level. He began as a physical education teacher at Wolflin Elementary School, then taught science and health at Fannin Middle School. Later, he served as assistant principal at Sam Houston Middle School, assistant principal at Palo Duro High School, principal of Amarillo High School, and then executive director over the Caprock cluster of schools, which includes Caprock High School and its 13 feeder schools. He also served five years as the district's chief human resources officer before being named interim superintendent in October 2018. The AISD School Board named him Superintendent in March 2019. A native of Dalhart, Loomis is a graduate of Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

**TRANSFORMATION PARK** recently held a ribbon cutting to celebrate its grand opening. Over the next few weeks, 35 people will be moving into the facility's pallet homes at 1501 SW 5th in Amarillo. Transformation Park exists as a true partnership of church, commerce, and city, coming together to provide essential services and resources. Its mission is to provide compassionate care, support, and resources to individuals experiencing homelessness, fostering their journey toward stability, health, employment, and a brighter future. The park was built using funds allocate from the American Rescue Plan Act, plus other funding from the City of Amarillo. The City owns the property but has leased it to Transformation Park for the next 20 years in a partnership involving the City, Hillside Christian Church, Coming Home and other area organizations. Executive Director **MARK ZIMMERMAN** said the city will pay utility bills, while the day-to-day operations will come from community donations, grants, and other funds from the nonprofit. In addition to the pallet homes, Transformation Park includes a low-barrier Safe Space, which includes showers, restrooms, laundry facilities and more. Every week, Transformation Park serves nutritious meals to Amarillo's homeless and hungry. In 2024, alongside its commerce partners, it served 136,630 meals at Guyon Saunders Resource Center, Picnic in the Park, East Ridge Mission Center, Mariposa Apartments, Hillside Development Center, and partnered with the City Homeless Outreach team. In the summer of 2025, the Park will add a new serving site: Transformation Park's "the HUB" at 601 S. Travis instead of serving at Guyon Saunders Resource Center.

In celebration of its 90th anniversary, **EDUCATION CREDIT UNION (ECU)** launched an ambitious community service initiative, "90 Days, 900 Ways to Give," challenging employees to donate 900 volunteer hours to the Texas Panhandle within the first three months of the year. ECU is proud to announce that its team not only met this goal, but far exceeded it, donating a total of **1,281 volunteer hours** during the first 90 days of 2025. The ECU team dedicated time and effort to support local schools, nonprofits, and community organizations. ECU employees served across a wide range of community partners, including 61 local nonprofits, 40 community-based organizations, 8 churches, and 9 college and university events. From teaching financial education to assisting at food banks and supporting community events, employees showed up in meaningful ways that reflect ECU's mission of service. **MARCUS SMITH** is ECU CEO and President.

**BSA HEALTH SYSTEM** is grateful for the generous donation of three **LITTLE BEES PLAYHOUSES** from **CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK OF AMARILLO** to support pediatric therapy patients at **BSA OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES**. BSA's Pediatric Therapy Services team specializes in treating children throughout the region, offering physical, occupational and speech therapy. The team is dedicated to improving the quality of life for young patients with developmental delays and special needs by creating personalized treatment plans in a supportive, child-friendly environment. Through collaboration and play-based therapy, specialists help children achieve age- and condition-appropriate goals. **JENNIFER HAWLEY**, is manager of BSA Outpatient Therapy Services. **BROOKE RODRIQUES** is Children's Miracle Director.

**FIRSTBANK SOUTHWEST (FBSW)** has been proudly supporting local schools through its School Spirit Card Program since 2019. In 2024, the program partnered with 20 schools across the Texas Panhandle to create, market, and distribute customized Debit Cards featuring each school's logo or mascot, with 5 more schools added to the list in 2025. These cards not only allow users to showcase their school pride but also provide a way to give back to their school districts. For every debit card transaction, FirstBank Southwest donates a portion to the corresponding school district. The more transactions a user has on the card throughout the year, the more money the school receives. These donations can be used at the discretion of the school districts, providing them with a flexible funding source for various programs and needs. FirstBank Southwest is excited to announce a total donation of \$66,423.10 for 20 school districts in 2024, a remarkable 17% increase from the \$56,759.45 donated for 2023. Perryton Independent School District received the most amount: \$23,749.95

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The **MAVERICK BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF AMARILLO** was honored to welcome back on March 31 **BRANDON SLAY**, 2000 Olympic Gold Medalist in wrestling, and **JOHNNY COBB**, his former coach, both proud alumni of the Maverick Club. Their return to the place where their journeys began is a powerful reminder to our youth that greatness can start right here in Amarillo. Brandon Slay's path to Olympic gold was shaped by the guidance of Coach Johnny Cobb, who instilled in him the values of discipline, perseverance, and excellence. In turn, Slay carried this mentorship forward by coaching **JORDAN BURROUGHS**, a six-time world champion and Olympic gold medalist in wrestling. This incredible lineage of champions speaks to the impact of mentorship, dedication, and the transformative power of community support. *AW*



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