



WOLF PUCKETT, a trial partner in **MULLIN HOARD & BROWN**, is co-presenting at the State Bar of Texas 10th Annual Oil & Gas Disputes Course in Houston January 18-19, 2024. Co-presenter **CHRYSTA CASTAÑEDA**'s win of more than \$164 million for T. Boone Pickens was recognized as the 12th largest verdict in 2016 in the nation by The National Law Journal and earned her a spot

as one of the NLJ's Elite Trial Lawyers of 2018, as well as induction into Texas Lawyer's Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame. She is also the co-author of *The Last Trial of T. Boone Pickens* (2020). The topic is Proving Oil & Gas Lost Profits With "Reasonable Certainty" as required by the Supreme Court, based upon their respective cases. Wolf's practice has also included catastrophic fires and commercial litigation over 30 years. He earned a Stanford BA, University of Chicago MBA, and UT Law JD.



Chrysta Castañeda



The **PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM** announced the promotion of **KRISTIN JOHNSON** to the Director of Education and Visitor Experience. In her newest role, Johnson will supervise the visitor services, programs, and education staff for the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. She has a Bachelor of Arts in history from West Texas A&M University and has worked for PPHM for 7 years this January focusing on the visitor experience.

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY announced a historic \$20 million gift from WT alums **CHERYL AND ALEX FAIRLY** to fund The Hill Institute, an interdisciplinary scholarly institute that will focus on the promotion of Texas Panhandle values. The institute will use private funds and will embed Hill Scholars, both faculty members and students, around campus to promote values consistent with the teaching and writing of Joseph A. Hill, the second and longest-serving president of WT. This is the largest single gift from a family to WT in University history. Dr. Paul Engler's monumental \$80 million gift in 2017 came from the Paul F. and Virginia J. Engler Foundation and remains the largest gift in WT history.



Space central to the cutting edge of distance education at West Texas A&M University now has a new name. **THE MARMADUKE INTERNET INNOVATION CENTER** officially was renamed during a recent reception celebrating WT's status as a leader in online education since 1997. **JOHN MARMADUKE** was on hand for the grand opening.

The space was known for the last quarter-century as the Hastings Electronic Learning Center, located in the basement of Cornette Library and named for the iconic entertainment store empire that was headquartered in Amarillo and founded by Sam Marmaduke. The Marmaduke Internet Innovation Center houses more than 350 top-of-the-line computers. The center is open daily and contains an open-access computer lab, five computer classrooms, two compressed video classrooms, a compressed video conference room, instructional support areas, offices and lounges. Several courses are taught in the

center, such as computer information systems, art, music, science and physics. It also hosts many media training opportunities.



The **AMERICAN BOARD OF ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY** has invited **CONSTANTINE SAADEH, MD, FAAAAI, FACR, FACP** to be a member of their Test Writing Committee. There were four times as many applicants as slots available this year. Dr. Saadeh was selected for qualities that seemed to best represent the general pool of allergists/immunologists as well as background that would enhance the success of TWC. He was deemed to be among the group's most likely to meet all the strict deadlines and requirements necessary to develop and publish a block of article based and core questions every five months for the next two years.



According to a study recently published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, maternal morbidity and mortality rates in Texas during the last two decades have more than doubled from 1999 (10.3 deaths per 100,000 births) to 2019 (21.9 deaths per 100,000 births). This rate not only exceeds the national average (17.4 in 2018), but it also places Texas at or near the bottom of most metrics used to determine the safest states in which to have a baby. One of the primary factors related to the lack of maternity care in the Lone Star state is the existence of maternity care deserts, which are counties where no maternity care exists. And in the Texas Panhandle, maternity care deserts are more common than in other regions of the state. Preeclampsia, a condition marked by high blood pressure, protein in the urine and inflammation, is a major cause of maternal mortality. **DR. CHRISTINE GARNER** has recently received a \$1.47 million **NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)** grant to work to impact preeclampsia rates in several Texas Panhandle counties. Dr. Garner is an assistant vice president for research and an assistant professor for the Department of Pediatrics, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the InfantRisk Center at the **TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER (TTUHSC) SCHOOL OF MEDICINE** in Amarillo.

INTERSTATE BANK announced that **AIDA ADAMS** has been promoted to Senior Vice President/Commercial Lending and Loan Administration, and **BLAIR BERG** has been promoted to Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer. Aida has continued to perform at a high level since joining the bank four and half years ago. She has generated and properly managed a \$50 million loan portfolio.



Aida Adams



Blair Berg

Aida will also be overseeing the centralization of credit," said **DANNY SKARDA**, Chairman & CEO. "Blair has also performed at a high level since joining the bank four years ago. His critical thinking, input, and ability to multi-task are noteworthy. Blair has done an outstanding job and we continue to expect great things," said Danny Skarda.



ASCENSION ACADEMY announced the addition of **CASSIE MONTGOMERY** as the school's new Development Director. Montgomery joins the administration team and will be responsible for planning, coordinating, and evaluating advancement efforts for Ascension Academy. Head of School, **TIM ODITT** says, "Cassie comes to Ascension with

a diverse background in education and outreach. Her experience and knowledge will assist Ascension in connecting its mission to critical donors that will help solidify the future of the Academy." Montgomery joins Ascension Academy after 5 years at Amarillo College as the Director of Outreach Services. She has her B.S. in Speech Communication and a M.A. in Communication Studies, both from West Texas A&M University. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Leadership Studies from the University of the Cumberlands, with an anticipated completion of December 2023.

THIRTY-NINE 23 MANAGEMENT, LLC (39:23), a hotel management company based in Amarillo, Texas, has successfully added a fifth jewel to its crown of hotel properties – the Home2 Suites by Hilton in west Amarillo. This acquisition not only affirms the company's strategic expansion plans but also showcases the dynamic culture that sets 39:23 apart in the industry. The company also operates Hyatt Place, Tru by Hilton, and My Place Hotels in Amarillo, along with an additional My Place Hotel in Lubbock, Texas. "Home2 Suites is a great brand, and this hotel is a high-performing property, both of which are really exciting," 39:23 President **KEVIN NELSON** said. Founded in 2017, 39:23 has carved out a niche for itself within the hospitality sector through its distinctive culture that marries a strategic business mindset with a people-centric approach. 39:23 Chief Operating Officer **JOHN DAVID TERRY** said. "This acquisition allows us to provide our team with more opportunities to grow while providing economies of scale that will allow us to better support all of our properties."



BANK OF AMERICA increased its minimum hourly wage to \$23 in October as part of its planned \$25 minimum by 2025. Bank of America has been a leader in providing higher minimum hourly wages, having increased its minimum pay by nearly \$14 per hour – or more than 121% – since 2010. This latest increase affects 9% of hourly US employees and 3.7% of

all US employees. "Providing a competitive minimum pay rate is foundational to being a great place to work," said **ASHLEY ALLEN**, president, Bank of America Amarillo. "Coupled with our industry-leading benefits, we can attract and develop talented teammates, investing in the long-term success of our employees, customers and communities."

HARRINGTON CANCER AND HEALTH FOUNDATION marked 10 years of serving Amarillo and the surrounding communities. With over \$22,000,000 given to individuals and nonprofits, our founders' vision and generous donors like YOU have made a lasting difference in the lives of many local cancer survivors in the Texas Panhandle. Our mission remains stronger than ever: to reduce the burden of cancer for residents living in Amarillo and the surrounding communities. Every survivor deserves to know about the Harrington Cancer and Health Foundation and the free resources available to them through **THE CANCER SURVIVORSHIP CENTER** to empower them on their journey.



The **45th Annual National Golden Spur Award Honors** brings **CODY JOHNSON** for an exclusive acoustic performance to the Buddy Holly Hall of Performing Arts & Sciences in Lubbock, November 3. The Honors celebrate the American rancher and those continuing the incredible ranching story. Proceeds benefit the preservation

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of ranching heritage and history. This prestigious event is the pinnacle of recognition for the ranching and livestock industries, spotlighting those who forge ahead in continuing the incredible story of ranching. The night will be illuminated by the presence of the **NATIONAL GOLDEN SPUR AWARD HONOREE CRAIG HAYTHORN** of Arthur, Nebraska, and the **RANCHING HERITAGE ASSOCIATION (RHA) WORKING COWBOY AWARD Recipient JIMBO HUMPHREYS** of Dickens, Texas. "We are thrilled to honor these exceptional individuals who embody the heart and soul of the American ranching tradition," said



Craig Haythorn

JIM BRET CAMPBELL, Executive Director of the Ranching Heritage Association and National Ranching Heritage Center. "With special guest Cody Johnson adding his musical talent to the night, we are sure it's going to be a memorable celebration of ranching heritage." Tickets range from \$150 to \$400. All tickets include access to the National Golden Spur Award Honors



Jimbo Humphreys

Pre-Show Reception and the Awards Show. Select tickets also grant access to the Cattleman's Club VIP Dining, a unique culinary experience with exclusively themed food stations and beverages. Tickets are available through the Buddy Holly Hall of Performing Arts & Sciences box office and website. For more information on ticket pricing, inclusions, the event schedule, and planning your visit, check out the official event website at goldenspurhonors.com.

AMARILLO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY is one of five finalists in the Southwest region for the **CHICK-FIL-A TRUE INSPIRATION AWARDS**. **ALASON MOORHEAD** is Executive Director for Amarillo Habitat.

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY announced an ambitious new goal for its One West comprehensive fundraising campaign, already the largest in Texas Panhandle history. Almost exactly two years after the campaign was publicly launched and just four months after its first goal was reached, One West leaders announced that they aim to raise a staggering \$175 million by the time the campaign ends in 2025. "Because of the generosity of donors across the Panhandle region; because of the bold vision cast for the University in the long-range plan; because of the thoughtful and innovative leadership of President **WALTER V. WENDLER**, the administration, faculty, staff, and students of this great University, we believe we can do more," campaign co-chair **JIM J. BREWER** said. "We feel we should do more!" Brewer and cochair **LEAH MCLAIN** said that the campaign has currently raised \$150,661,665, with \$39 million raised in the last fiscal year. That's the fourth year in a row in which WT has enjoyed record fundraising totals. Thus far, nearly 8,000 donors have given more than 62,000 gifts as part of the One West campaign.