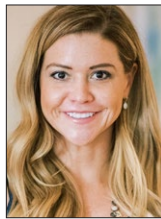


BUZZ

February 24



BSA HEALTH SYSTEM announced the appointment of **JON BUSH, MD**, as chief medical officer (CMO). Dr. Bush has more than 34 years of healthcare experience and served as interim CMO of BSA Health System since September. As a practicing hospitalist, Dr. Bush has been an integral part of BSA since 2009 and served as hospitalist medical director since 2017. Dr. Bush completed undergraduate studies and his Doctor of Medicine at the University of Missouri. He practiced internal medicine and hospital medicine in the Kansas City area for eight years prior to moving to Amarillo in 2003 with his wife, Ann, and four children. He also practiced internal medicine at Amarillo Diagnostic Clinic for six years before joining BSA as a Hospitalist. **MICHAEL CRUZ** is BSA Health System CEO.



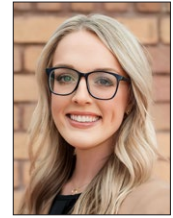
MAGGIE VELKY is opening **MONKEE'S OF AMARILLO** this month at 2616 Wolflin Avenue, in The Shops at Wolflin Square. It is a women's clothing, shoes and accessories boutique known for carrying stylish and timeless pieces, along with the latest trends. The store will feature brands such as Farm Rio, Oliphant, Shoshanna, Olivia James, Ripley Rader and Hunter Bell.

JOHNNY E. TROTTER of Hereford, **JOSEPH OSTERKAMP** of Farwell, and **WENDEE PAYNE, PH.D.** of Floydada have been appointed to the **TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION** by **GOVERNOR GREGG ABBOTT**. Their terms will expire September 2029. The commission works to protect and enhance the health of animal populations across the State.



KATHRYN COPPINGER of Amarillo has been named a key account manager working with **XCEL ENERGY'S** large commercial and industrial customers in the company's Texas and New Mexico service area. Coppinger is a native of Amarillo and a graduate of Amarillo High School and West Texas A&M University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in business management. She started at Xcel Energy as an administrative assistant and became an

operations program manager in the company's contracting organization in 2016. **KARLI PIGG** of Lubbock has been named a key account manager working with **XCEL ENERGY'S** large commercial and industrial customers in the company's Texas and New Mexico service area. Pigg is a native of Amarillo and a graduate of Texas Tech University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering. She started her career in the manufacturing industry where she gained process development skills and joined Xcel Energy four years ago as an engineer in Distribution Design. While at Xcel Energy, she obtained her engineer-in-training certification after passing the Fundamentals of Engineering exam and is currently studying to become a professional engineer.



The **TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE (TDCJ)** announced that **SENIOR WARDEN ADAM R. GONZALES** of the **WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS UNIT** has been selected as the **2023 WARDEN OF THE YEAR**. According to Lonnie "L.E." Townsend, region five director, Warden Gonzales consistently displayed an ambitious drive to incorporate new and innovative approaches in correctional facility operations. Gonzales is a 25-year veteran of TDCJ. He began his career as a correctional officer and promoted through the ranks by serving the agency in the capacities of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Major, and Assistant Warden of several facilities. Gonzales received his Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice with honors from Ashworth University in 2017.



The **AMARILLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** has hired **CHRISTY KING** as the new Membership Director. King's primary role will be the recruitment of new businesses and non-profit organizations to the Chamber, as well as retention of current members. The Chamber of Commerce currently has more than 1,700 members who represent more than 70,000 people of the Amarillo area's workforce. Born and raised in Amarillo, in 2021 King was hired as the Director of Tourism for the Amarillo Convention & Visitor Bureau (CVB) where she worked on promoting Amarillo to the travel and tourism industry and welcomed visitors from all over the world. King was also instrumental in the creation of the Texas Route 66 Festival and was previously recognized by the Amarillo Women's Network with a Career Achievement Award.

Scene One Entertainment (formerly Bow Tie Management) announced it will reopen **WESTGATE MALL CINEMAS** in Amarillo, a six-screen theater formerly operated by Premiere Cinemas. This will be the first theater for the New York-based Scene One to operate in the State of Texas. The theater, which previously was a second-run, discount theater, will return to being first-run – featuring the latest in Hollywood features. After some minor renovations and improvements, Scene One is projecting a reopening soon.

As part of its dedication to support growth within the community, **BANK OF AMERICA** contributed a total of \$423,229 to local nonprofit organizations across Amarillo in 2023. These philanthropic grants, sponsorships, employee contributions and company-matched donations supported economic mobility and addressed education, food supply and workforce disparities in the region. **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES** received a grant and leadership training as part of the Neighborhood Champion program for their work to increase access to adequate education and advance economic mobility by equipping underserved communities and individuals with the support and resources necessary to achieve healthy lifestyles. The organizations that received grants in 2023 include: **AMARILLO AREA CASA, AMARILLO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, AMARILLO WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER, DOWNTOWN WOMEN'S CENTER, FAITH CITY INC., FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES OF AMARILLO, HIGH PLAINS FOOD BANK, HEAL THE CITY FREE CLINIC, SNACK PAK 4 KIDS, THE MAVERICK BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF AMARILLO, THE UNITED WAY OF AMARILLO.** In addition to philanthropic capital, the Amarillo-area bank employees donated furniture to **HEAL THE CITY FREE CLINIC** and **AMARILLO AREA FOUNDATION.** They also donated their time, logging more than 1,238 volunteer hours over the course of the year. **ASHLEY ALLEN** is president of Bank of America Amarillo.



Parents of children with learning disabilities are sought to take part in groundbreaking new research at **WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.** Faculty members in WT's Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences are leading new research into the experiences of families with

children with dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and speech and language disorder. "This research is the first of its kind in the United States," said **DR. MALVIKA BEHL**, associate professor, counselor education program chair and principal investigator for the project. "We're trying to bring out awareness and help teachers, administrators, counselors and

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diagnosticians better understand the parents' experience and see how they can be helped more." Behl is partnering with three colleagues from the Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences: **DR. KENNETH DENTON**, associate Dean and associate professor of psychology; **DR. BETTY CONEWAY**, head of the WT Department of Education and The Geneva Schaeffer Professor of Education; and **DR. MIKYUNG SHIN**, the Bill Piehl Professor of Education.



Dr. Kenneth Denton



Dr. Betty Coneway



Dr. Mikyung Shin

The researchers are focusing on four common disorders that affect a person's ability to read, write, do math and speak. They seek 33 families from across the United States to take part in interviews and an additional 33 families to complete surveys at wtamuw.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3vHF8KknwSEbtXM. "When some parents go to the schools to get their children tested, they don't even know exactly what learning disabilities are," Behl said. "Often, they experience a lot of guilt: Is this something I gave my child? Did I do something wrong? If you're advocating for your child, you want them to have all the resources that they can, but sometimes, you don't know what those resources are. As we do our interviews, we'll be asking parents what resources have and have not been helpful." *AW*